

THE
MOST EX-
cellent Historie of
Lysimachus and Var-
rona, daughter to Syllanus, Duke of
Hypata, in Theffalia.

Wherin are contained the effects of *Fortune,*
the Wonders of affection, and the conquests
of uncertaine Time.

By I. H. R.

————— *Sequantem grandia nervi*
Deficient, animus, que. —————



LONDON

Printed by Thomas Creede. 1604.



TO THE RIGHT

Honourable *Henry VVriothesly*, Earle of
Southampton, and Baron of *Titchfield*:

*I. H. wisheth encrease of all vertuous
and Honourable resolutions.*



Report (Right Honourable) that hath enobled your singular, and manifold vertues, by nature and fortune, to the Worlde's recommendation, hath induced mee, to thrust into the open light this my abortiue issue, to be shrowded vnder the shadowe of your Lordships winges, the fruite of some idle houres, sith after many thoughts I could not excogitate any more pleasing recreation, whercon I might bestow times of leysure. The argument I confesse, is of too base consequence; to procure your liking, or deserue your allowing. Neuerthelesse the force of dutie, and zeale, possessing the chiefest por-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

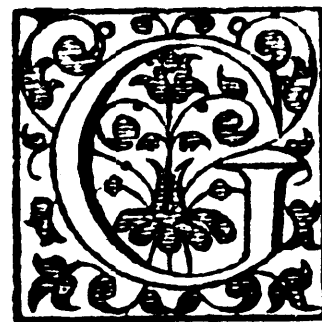
tion of mine interests, ouerrule my thoughts and resolutions, in hazarding the entertainment thereof, at your fauourable courtesie, and construction. And if I may perceiue that your Lordship affoords the countenance, to grace my papers with the demonstration, of the extreamest degree of good liking, I shall be emboldned to raise my Muses note, that now yeelds harsh musick, to an higher key, a fairer fruite, of my better ordered vacant houres, and manifest my dutie to your Honour, in some matter of greater import, then a superficial toy. But fearing to grow offensive through tediousnes, I commit this simple work to your Lordships patronage, and your Honour to the Almightyes protection: for the preleruation of which, I will pray continually. I ende.

*Your Lordships most firmly deuoted
in all seruiceable endeouours.*

I. H.



To the Gentlemen Readers.



Entlemen, I haue written the Historie of *Lysimachus* and *Varrona*, a worke attempted to winne your fauours, but to discouer mine own ignorance, in that raunging in a large field of copious matter, and being engulphed in an Ocean of conceit, I lye there ouerwhelmed. If my methode be nothing pleasant, yet presuming vpon your curtesies, I doubt not but you will smoothe it vp with patience: and the vertue of your affectiō I trust will stand in the front as a strōg fort of defence, to shield me from the descanting verdicts of such vnfriendly Readers, which conceiting the Authors entent amisse, may wrest his meaning by wrong cōiectures: and from the sowre censures of the ouer-curious Moralists of our age, which glory to be rearmed the new vprearers of the long agoe confuted Stoicall *Apathy*. Howsoeuer the case standeth, I looke for no praise for my labour, but pardon for my good will: it is the greatest reward that I dare aske, and the least which may be offered: I desire no more, I deserue no lesse. Thus Gentlemen, committing these my labors to your friendly view, and submitting my selfe to your curteous censures, I end: wishing to you all feuerall good fortunes. Farewell.

I. H. R.



Verfes in praife of the Booke.

Come fee this worke that is but fliely wrought,
Take but this fimple trauaile in your view,
As in a mirrour there is deeply taught,
The wanton vices of proud fancies crew:
There is depainted by moft curious art;
How loue and folly iumpe in euery part.

This little Pamphlet more conceit combines,
Then wanton Ouid in his art did paint:
And fharper Satyres are within his lines,
Then Martiala fung proud Venus to attaint.
Sith then his art doth plainly yeeld fuch gaines,
Read it, and thanke the Author for his paines.

Ro. Bacchus.

YE English gallants fhoupe and gather bayes,
Make Coronets of *Floraes* proudeft flowers,
As gifts for him, for he muft haue the praife,
And taft the deawes that high *Parnaffius* fhewers:
As hauing leapt beyond old *Ouids* ftaine,
In taunting Louers for their fruitlefse paine.

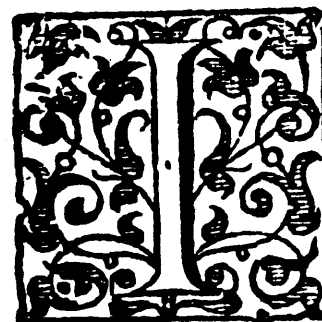
Tho: Talkinghame,

Gentleman.



THE MOST EX-
cellent Historie of Lysfi-

machus and *Varrona*, Daughter to
Syllanus Duke of *Hypata*
in *Theffalia*.



*I*n *Theffalia*, when Nature hath made the
foyle proude with the beawtie of *Floras*
riches, as though fhe meant to wrap *Tei-*
lus in the glozie of her beftments, there
dwelled a Magnifico, a man of moft ho-
nozable parentage, whome Fortune had
graced with many fauours, and Nature
honoured with fundry exquisite qualitics,
fo beawtified with the excellencie of both, as it was a queftion
whether Fortune or Nature were moze prodigall in describe-
ring the riches of their bounties. This Knight thus enricht
with vertue and honour, furnamed *Syllanus*, had to ioy him
in his age a daughter of great beawtie, fo exquisite in her ex-
terieur feature, as no blemifh might eclipse that which Nature
had beftowed in her lineaments. This Damfcell whole name
was *Varrona*, dayly vfed to trauerfe the plaines wherein her
fathers thérpe were kept, partly to preuent inconueniences
which through idleneffe might haue annoyed her beawty, and
partlie to ply the care of her fathers foldes: (for fhe knew that
the eyes of the maifter fcedes the caftell) which with fuch dili-
gence was perfozmed, as that fhe fexmed with labour to enter
armes

The Historie of

men against want, and with her hands thrust to preoccupate her hearts griefe. Among these dayly the walks of *Thessalia*, the Shepheards not a little delighted at the view of so excellent an object, held their eyes fortunate when they might behold her feature, accounting him happy that could lay his flocks interst into her walks. Amongst these that fed their thoughts on her favours, there was one called *Lysimachus*, a yong youth, that had the pride of his yeres triumphing in his countenance, a man, whose parentage though it were woorthipfull, yet was it not indued with much wealth, insomuch that his wit was better then his reuenues, and his industrie more beneficiall then his substance. This *Lysimachus* trauieling amongst the latones, no sooner had a glauce of her beautie, but set downe his staffe, resolving either to perish in so sweete a labozynth, or in time happily to stumle out with *Theseus*: In which extasie he shall remaine, till we haue described the cause why he left *Macedonia* his native countrey, and the perillous euents which hapned during his boyage hither into *Thessalia*.

This youth was one of the sonnes of *Alexandro*, who hauing passed the prime of his youth in sundry battailes against *Astolpho* king of *Lydia*, at last (as the date of time hath his course) grew aged, his haire was siluer belwed, and the map of his age was figured on his forehead, in such sort, as that all men might perceiue his glasse was run, and that nature of necessitie challenged her due. *Alexandro* that knewe the tearme of his life was now expired, hauing two sonnes by his wife *Olympias*, the very pride of his foxepassed yeres, thought now, seeing death by constraint would compell him to leaue them, with wholesome admonitions and louing perswasions for the increasing of their ensuing amitie, to distribute in their portions the substance of his wealth for the countercheck of pouertie. All which being done, to the end that they might not forget his axioms, he gaue them a scroule, wherein they might reade what their father dying, willed them to execute liuing. At which *Alexandro* shrunke downe in his bed, and gaue up the ghost. Whose death was greatly lamented of his two

Lysimachus and *Varrona*.

two sonnes, and bewayled of all his friends, especially of his fellow warriours, who attended on his funerals, which were perfozmed with great solemnities. His obsequies done, *Valentine* caused his Epitaph, with the contents of the scroule to be pourtraged out, which were to this effect.

The contents of the Schedule, which *Alexandro* gaue to his sonnes.

- 1 **L** Et Gods worship be your mornings worke, and his wisdome the direction of your dayes labour.
- 2 Rise not without thanks, neither sleepe without repentance.
- 3 Choose but a few friends, and try those, for the flatterer speakes fairest.
- 4 If you haue discreet wiues, make them your Secretaries, else lock your thoughts in your hearts, for women are seldome silent.
- 5 If they be faire, be not icalous, for suspition cures not womens follies.
- 6 If they be wise, wrong them not: for if they loue others, they will loath you.
- 7 Let your childrens nurture be their richest portion: for wisdome is more precious then wealth.
- 8 Be not proud amongst your poore neighbours: for a poore mans hate is perillous.
- 9 Nor too familiar with great men: for presumption wins disdaine.
- 10 Neither too prodigall in your fare, nor dye indebted to your bellies, enough is a feast.
- 11 Be not enuious, least ye fall in your owne imaginations.
- 12 Vse patience, mirth, and quiet: for care is an enemy to health.

Valentine hauing thus set vp his schedule, & hangd about his fathers coffin many passionat poems, that at *Macedonia* might

The Historie of

suppose him to be passing sorrowfull, clad himselfe and his younger brother Lysimachus all in blacke, and in such sable suites discoursed his griefe: But as the Hiena when she mournes is most guilefull, so Valentine under the shew of dolour shadowed his heart full of contented thoughts: The Wyger though he hide his claws, will at last discover his rapine: The Lions looke are not the maps of his meaning, nor a mans phisnomie the display of his secrets. Fire cannot be hid in straw, nor the nature of a man so concealed, but at last it will haue his course: nature and arte may do much, but that *Natura naturans* which by purgation is engrafted in the heart, will be at last perforce predominant. Euen thus and no otherwise fared it with Valentine, for after a quarter of a yeres lamentation was ended, he entred into consideration how he might extort from his yonger brother the substance bequeathed him by his father, if not defraud him utterly of his due, yet make such hauock of his legacie, as it should be a great deale the lighter, whereupon he began thus to meditate with himselfe.

Valentines meditation with himselfe.

NOW Valentine, lone and fortune haue brought thee into a Labozynth, thy thoughts are like Ianus pictures, that present both peace and warre, and thy mind like Venus smile, where is hammered both feare and hope. With then the chance lyeth in thy owne choice; do not with Medea see and allow of the best, and then follow the worst; but of two extreames, if they be *Immediata*, chuse that which may haue least prejudice & most profit: intreate thy brother in fauours, and entertaine him with lone, so shalt thou haue thy conscience cleere, and thy renowne excellent. Woe, what words are these, far vnfit (if thou be wise) for thy honour. What though thy father at his death talked many frivolous matters, as one that doated for age, and rauced in his sickness, shall his words be so authentical, as thou wilt in observing them prejudice thy selfe? No, no, sick mens words that are paroll, hauing no hand

Lysimachus and Varrona.

nor seale, are like the laves of a Citie written in dust, which are broken with the blast of euery wind. What man, thy father is dead, and he can neither help thy fortunes, nor measure thy actions; therefore burie his words with his carcase, and be wise for thy selfe: what, tis not so old as true, *Non sapit, qui sibi non sapit*. But unhappie Valentine, whither dost thou roue? Do thy vertues increase like the pace of a Crab, who creepeth backward: Hast thou in the cradle bin continent, and wilt thou in the saddle be impudent? Now I see, that albeit vertue hath broided thy youth with chaste thoughts, yet vanitie hath enchanted thy yeres with fond resolutions, resembling the Pettie, which may be handled in the bud, but singeth in the flower: Art thou so well skild already in thy fathers precepts, as that thou meanest to buy folly and cheapen repentance? Are not we sonnes of one father, liens of one tree, birds of one nest: and wilt thou become so unnaturall as to rob him, whom especiallie thou oughtest to relieue? Did not thy father tell thee, that brothers amitie is like the drops of *Balsamum*, that salueth most dangerous sores? Did he exhort vnto concord, and wilt thou shew thy selfe carelesse? He vpon these frivolous words, which rather then they should in such sort be prejudiciall vnto my prosperitie, as detain me from raigning sole Lord ouer all my fathers possessions, I would not onely in forswearing the remembrance of them, violate naturall affection, but with mine owne hands worke my utter confusion: for loth would I be deprived of so triumphant an expectation. In this humour Valentine left his Chamber, bowling the performance of these diuellish resolutions. Thus for two or thre dayes being very pensive, and full of many passions, it chanced that as he walked thus in his muses, fetching the compasse of his conceit beyond the Home, he met with two beggerly fellowes, who as their custome was, began their *Exordium* with I pray good Maister, and so forth, hoping to finde the Gentleman as liberall, as he was full of gracious fauours: neither did they misse of their imagination, for he thought them likely to be drawne on to the execution of his

The Historie of

purpose, conceived thus, that gold was as good as glets to knit them to any practise whatsoever, and therefore out with his purse & greates the in the hands with a brace of asigels. This vnaccustomed reward made the more franck of curtesies, that enery rag reacht the Gentleman a reuerence, with promise of many prayers for his health. He that harped on another string took y men by the hands, & sitting down vpo the græne grasse, discoursed vnto them frō point to point the beginning of his sorrotues, & how by no means (except by them) he could rest satisficd. The beggers desirous to do the Gentleman any pleasure, said they were readie to take any paines that might redound to his content, whereupon he replied thus. When my good friends, ye shall run into yonder towne (pointing to *Idomena*) making solemne exclamations that if present remedy be not adhibited, there will be no question but that the destruction of a certaine person in this wood will be unfallible, being sorely oppressed by a desperat ruffian: if ye can cunningly & closely thus conuay vnto the officers the tenour of your minds, I will so highly gratifie you, as neuer afterwards ye shalbe bound to exercise your old occupation. These hell-hounds glad of this large proffer, promised to venter a ioynt, but they would further him in his enterprise: whereupon he dispatcht them away, whose minds were so fixed on this liberall condition, that they bestirred their stumps till they came vnto the towne: where notice of their aduertisement being taken, assisted by the Magistrate they made to y wood: who no sooner were come within the reach of Valentines eye, but puffing & blowing, as though all would haue split againe, he posted vnto them, charging the vpon their alleageance they bore to their soueraigne Lord their King, that they should not spare to execute the rigour of the lawe vpon his brother, who esteeming gold sufficient honour, became so deafe against my fathers philosophicall harmonie, and made more value of profit then of vertue, as to the end that he might strip me out of my possessions, came rushing in, and laid such violent hands vpon me, as had not the sight of your approaching hither terrified his vnnaturall stratagem,

De

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

he had ere this bereaued me of life. Whereupon seeing his notorious villanie which so long lay hid in the ashes of pretended simplicitie, thus discovered, and after this sort detected, for his better securitie betooke himselfe to his heeles, 'whome if you followe downe along this vale towards my house, he cannot possible escape your hands.

Fortune that saw how Lyfimachus balowed not her deitie, but held her power in scozne, thought to haue about with him, and brought the matter to passe thus. Lyfimachus as his vsuall maner was, walked befoze his brothers house in a balley betwene two high mountaines (topt with trees of maruellous verdure, whereby ran a fountaine pleasant, as well for the murmur of the streames, as for the sweetnes of waters) with his Boare-speare vpon his neck, where hauing stroken a Diere, and but lightly hurt, he packed downe by the groue in great haste expecting his fall: from whence he might espie his brother accompanied with a crue of armed men following him: amazed at this sight, as he stood gazing, his nose on a sodaine bled, which made him coniecture (as it was indeede) that there was some dangerous cuent pretended. As soone as they were come within his reach, Valentine commanded the officers without further examination, to carry him to prison. Lyfimachus smiling both at the enuious treacherie, and reward of his brother, brokt all the iniuries of fortune with patience. Lying in prison all night, the next morning as soone as the day brake, taking a Cytterne in his hand, he warbled out this moutefull Sonnet.

Lyfimachus Sonnet that he made in prison.

YOur restless cares companions of the night,
That wrap my ioyes in folds of endlesse woes,
Tie on my heart, and wound it with your spight,
Since Time and Fortune prooues my vtter foes.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe, the subiect of my layes.

Mourne

The Historie of

Mourne heavens, mourne earth, your seruant is forlorne,
Mourne times, and howers, since bale inuades by bowre,
Curse euery tongue, the place where I was borne,
Curse euery thought, the life which makes me lowre.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe the subiect of my layes.

Yet drooping, and yet liuing to this death,
I sigh, I sue for pittie at his ^{throne}, *at the Lord of hostes,
Whose mightie power can quicklie comfort breath,
And make my selfe thus not in woes to pine.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe the subiect of my layes.

Meane while my sighes yeeld truce vnto my teares,
By them the winds increase and fiercely blow :
Yet when I sigh the griefe more plaine appeares,
And by their force with greater power doth glow.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe the subiect of my layes.

Fortius ille facit qui miser esse potest.

Having thus chaunted ouer his Sonnet, he heard the prison
dore open, whereupon he grew passing melancholie, and not
without cause, for the Tayler certified him that the Burgoma-
sters of the towne were assembled in the common hall, to heare
how he could cleare himselfe of the accusations which were
laide to his charge. At this Lysimachus taking heart of grace,
being imboldned with his innocencie, he boldly went with the
officers vnto the hall, with whom (as the nature of man is
desirous of nouelties) came a great prease of people to heare
the matter throughe cannaled. When Lysimachus was
thus brought before the barre, Valentine his brother who had
suborned these retchles roagues solennlie to depose that they
saw him p*re*iudicially bent, began his inuective thus.

9

Lysimachus and Varrona.

I am sorry graue citizens and inhabitants of Idomene, that
this day I am come to accuse my brother Lysimachus, whose
vertues hitherto haue won him many fauours, and the out-
ward shew of his good qualities hath been highlie applauded of
all men: but my conscience constraineth me, not to conceale
such heinous sinne, and the rigour of the law chargeth me not
to smother by so great an offence without rebuke. This con-
sidered, I am forced to discouer a wicked deed that this Ly-
simachus hath committed, and that is this. It chanced (as I
walked solitarie downe my woods to see if any of my Cows
and Lambs (as it is my ordinarie custome) were stragled
downe to the strand to browse on sea Iuie, wherof they take
especiall delight to feede) that my brother hauing concealed a
secret resolution of some desperat plot, and could no longer
hide fire in the flaxe, nor oyle in the flame (for cruie is like
lightning that will appeare in the darkest fog) and seeing now
opportunitie answerable to the performance of a mischief,
thought best not to let it slip, but assaulted me with such vio-
lence, redoubting his stroakes with such courage, that had not
the arriuall of the officers been speedie, my death had been so-
daine. For p*re*sent hereof, these men (pointing to the b*eg*gars)
shall here before you all make present deposition, and with
that he reacht them a Bible, whercon being sold vnto sinne,
and sworne to wickednes, they swore that Lysimachus was
most p*re*iudicially bent. At which oath the people that were
Iurers in the cause, beliening the protestations of Valentine,
and the depositions of the roages, presentlie found him guiltie,
and Valentine and the rest of the Burgomasters gaue iudge-
ment, that he should the next day at the Market place lose his
head. As soone as Lysimachus heard the censure, he appeared
for no mercy, nor abasht any whit, as one d*es*irous of fauour,
but liuing by his eyes to heauen, only said thus.

O God, which seeest the secrets of all hearts, & knowest
all things before they come to passe, which discernest the
very inward thoughts, and triest the hearts & reins: Thou
knowest that my brother hath slandered me with a false

accusation.

The Historie of

whereof I was neuer guiltie, that he hath produced these two men by a sinister suggestion to periuere themselves in a fault, when not so much as in thought, I committed such a fact, he hath to satisfie his malicious mind, without cause deuised this false crime. I confesse O Lord my selfe to be a most grievous offender, and to deserve far greater punishment; but not for this death I care then my prayer, and let the innocencie of my case please before thy diuine maiestie: if it be thy will preuent his practises, confound his counsels, and let him which hath digged the pit for others, fall into the same himselfe. Thou hast neuer as yet O Lord left the fowle courtiers without help, but hast delivered them which feare thee, from all aduersitie. May who hath trusted in thy mercie, which hath come to mishap, or who hath put his hope in thee, and hath suffered harme? So O Lord if it be thy will, thou canst disclose the deuce of this my brother *Valentine*, and vnfold the follies of these false winnettes, help thou O Lord, for in thee is my trust. The people hearing the saluine words of sorowfull *Lyfimachus*, thought he had spoken these words to excuse his fault, but not that he was guiltlesse of the fact, giving more credit to the speeches of *Valentine*, and to the oathes of the men countermaied out by the *Bourgomasters*, then to the prayers of a yong man, supposing his speeches were more of custome to shake his sallies, then of conscience to cleare himselfe of that crime, returned him backe againe to prison, till the day assigned for his punishment. Where being deeply grieved, and yet smothering his sorowes with patience, he lay the rest of the day. When night was come, fortune that was carefull of her champion began to smile, and brought it so to passe, that as *Lyfimachus* was walking by the battlements of the Castell wherein he was prisoner, he espied from whence he might leape downe without hurt, and so escape away with securitie. Glad of this as a man most valiant, and trusting to his fortunes, courageously slept downe with little priuies, which being performed, he strudged awake to

Lyfimachus and Harron.

so the sea shote, where bording a foist which by chance there lay at Ancour, he boyled up sayle, as having the winds somewhat benigne, purposing thither to direct his course, whither fortune and *Eolus* would conduct him, whom for a while we will leaue, and returne againe to *Valentine*.

The morrow was the day of punishment, and *Valentine* was so desirous to see the execution performed, that he passed the night with little sleepe: but as soon as *Phorbus* had bayled the curtaine of the night, and made *Aurora* blush with gining her the *Bezelus labras* in her silver couch, he got him vp, and dispatcht an officer to the Taylor to produce his prisoner to execution, who returned him this answer, *Non est inuentus*. This newes brake *Valentine* into a great melancholic, that presentlie he went to the Scheriffes, giuing them to vnderstand of this information, whose hearts were so set on fire, that they straight-raised all the countie, and made hue and erie after him. But *Lyfimachus* knowing full well the secret wayes that led vnto the sea coast, stole away priuie through a part of the Province of *Macedonia*, and escaped safe to the sea. *Valentine* seeing himselfe thus brought into a soles paradise, despairing of his brothers recourie, as a man carelesse what should become of him, took horse and rode home, where he trusted seeing the stop was remoued which galled him to the quicke to end the currant of his piores in all contented quietnes: having heaued vp to promotion those two bassailles of sinne, whose lamentable fortunes, together with the principall member, shall at large hereafter be declared. These vnerpected accidents compelled *Lyfimachus* to leaue his native countie *Macedonia*, and in forreine places to purchase more sauourable fortunes, with whome, wee will now begin.

Lyfimachus having for the space of three or foure dayes sayled without descrying land, sole Lord ouer the vessell, as having none to comfort him, at last he might discouert the

The Historie of

coast of *Theſſaly*. *Aetheron* (as a man to fall of land) he was cast: upon which ſaſſening the *Miner*, he chanced on a path that led into the thick of a *Forest*, where wandring without meate, he was almost ſamith: at laſt hunger growing on ſo extreame, like a mad man he ranged vp and downe the woods, ſeeking to encounter ſome wilde beaſt with a *Javelin* which he made at his entrance into the thicket. He had not gone far, but he eſpied a *Shepherd*, deſirous therefore to be relieved by his fauours, he ſaluted him thus. *Shepherd*, ſo ſo far thy aſſure warrants me: courteous, ſo ſo much thy countenance imports: if a diſtreſſed perſon whom fortune hath wronged, and the ſeas haue ſauoured (if I may count it fauour to line and want) may without offence craue ſo far aſd, as to know ſome place where to reſt my wearie and weather-beaten bones, thanks thou ſhalt haue as thy due, and moze thou canſt not haue, ſo my abilities deny me to perſourne a deeper debt. But if any wayes it pleaſe thee to command me, be me as far as the power of a poore Gentleman will ſtretch. The *Shepherd* hearing him ſpeake ſo grauely, made him this anſwere. *Stranger*, your degree I know not, therefore pardon if I giue leſſe title then your eſtate meriteth: *Fortunes* frownes are *Princes* fortunes, and *Kings* are ſubiect to chance and deſtynie. *Mithap* is to be ſalued with pittie, not with ſcozne, and we that are fortunes darlings are bound to relieue them that are in diſtreſſe: therefore follow me, and you ſhall haue ſuch ſuccour as a *Shepherd* may aſſoord. *Lyſimachus* was paſſing glad, and *Procyon* (ſo ſo was the *Shepherds* name) led the way, who being deſirous to infer ſome occaſion of parly, began his prattle thus. If thou be a man of ſuch worth as I value thee by thy exterior lineaments, make diſcourſe vnto me what is the cauſe of thy preſent miſfortunes, ſo by the frownes in thy face thou ſeemeſt to be croſt with miſhaps: but whatſoeuer or whoſoeuer, let me craue that fauour to heare the tragick cauſe of thy eſtate. *Lyſimachus* ſeeing by the *Shepherds* looks that he was deſirous to heare the diſcourſe of his fortunes, briefly ſhaped him this reple. In that your looks

Lyſimachus and Varrona.

looks ſee my grieve, and your thoughts pittie my woes, my tongue ſhall giue you thanks (the bountie of ſorrowes tenant) and my heart pray that the gods may be as friendlie to your flocks, as you are favourable vnto me. Now I arrived here gentle *Shepherd* inquire not, leaſt it be tedious ſo; thee to heare it, and a double grieve ſo; me to rehearſe it. *Procyon* not willing to occaſionate offence, as hauing affection portrayed in his viſage, he conueyed him home to his houſe, as ſoone as he was arrived there, he began at the doore to entertaine him thus. Sir, this is my cottage whercin I live content, and your lodging, where (pleaſe it you) you may reſt quiet. I haue no rich clothes of *Egipt* to couer the walls, nor ſtaze of plate to diſcouer any wealth, ſo *Shepherds* be content to be proud nor couetous. You ſhall find here cheere and miſke ſo; dainties, and wool ſo; clothing, in euerie corner of the houſe Content ſitting ſmiling, and tempering euerie homely thing with a welcome: this if you can brooke and accept of as allow the meanest hoſpitalitie) you ſhall haue ſuch fare as *Philemon* & *Baucis* gaue to *Iuppiter*. *Lyſimachus* thankt him hartily, and going into his houſe found what he promiſed. After that he had ſat a litle by the fire & well warmed him, he went to ſupper, where *Lyſimachus* ſed well, as one whom the ſea had made hungrie, and ſo plied his teeth that all ſupper he ſpake not one word. After he had taken his repaſt, *Procyon* ſeeing him wearie, and that ſleepe chimed on to reſt, let him ſee his lodging, and ſo gaue him the good night.

The *Sunne* was no ſooner the next morning ſlept from the bed of *Aurora* but the *Shepherd* got him vp and went to his felos, where letting forth his ſhepe, after he had eſpied where they ſhould graze, he returned home, and looking when his gueſt ſhould riſe, hauing ſlept in the laſt night, went roundlie to his breakefaſt: by that time he had ended his *de ſuine*, *Lyſimachus* was gotten vp, againſt whoſe riſing *Odula* *Procyons* wife had ſhewne her cokerie, and the *Shepherd* tired in his ruſſet iacket, no ſooner had eſpied his gueſt coming out of his Chamber but bade him good morrow, with a look not ſo much

The Historie of

so much vnsuited as affectionate: when after breakfast was ended, Procyon led forth to see his flocks, plodding thus over the greene fields, at last they came to the mountaines where his flocks grazed, and there he discoursed vnto him the pleasures of a countrie life, thus. Did you but (say) live a while in this condition, you would say the Court were rather a place of sorrow then of solace. Here shall not fortune thwart you, but in meane misfortunes, as the loss of a few sheepe, which as it breeds beggerie, so it can be no extreme pynne, the next yeare may mend all with a fresh increase. Wee drinke without suspition, and sleepe without care, enioy our rest as we couet not to chynge, our desires runne not about our desires, nor our thoughts about our fortunes. Care (as I said) cannot harbour in our cottages, nor do our homely courtes know broken slumbers: as wee need not all diet, so wee haue enough to satysfie. The shepheard made Lysimachus so much in loue with the countrie life, that every day he led forth his flocks with such delight, that he held his exile happie, and thought no content to the blisse of a countrie cottage.

Lysimachus vsing thus daylie with bag and bottle to goe a field in more pleasant content of minde then euer he was in his owne countrie with Valentine his brother, it chanced on a day being inforced by the heate of the Sonne to seek for shelter, as he sat vnder the shadow of Limon trees, fortune (who is like the Camelion) variable with every object, and constant in nothing but in inconstancie, thought to make him a mirror of mutabilitie, and therefore still cross him contrarie. Thinking to recover his cottage, it fell out that certaine rascalls (who after they had foraged in the Thessalian confines) espying Lysimachus, and taking a generall survey of his extraordinarie linaments, thought that he was very like for the performance of some bold attempt, and in time of necessitie no small assistance vnto their enterprizes: whereupon thus resolved, they came rushing in, and laid violent hands vpon him, who seeing that all hope of libertie should be taken away if he yielded, thought rather to die in his owne defence,

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Defence, then any way be deprived of such an especiall privilege, and therefore dealt such blowes amongst them with his weapon, as he did witnesse well vpon their carcases that he was no coward. But as *ne Hercules quidem contra duos*, so Lysimachus could not resist a multitude, having none to second him: so that he was not only batted, but sore wounded, and to be briefe perforce hopped a ship-board, where for the space of a day or two being with the Pirates carried into the huge Ocean, at length the States sitting downe in their synode to make Lysimachus happie, ordered to the matter, that maugre their beards (by a tempest which sodainly arose) they were cast againe vpon the borders of Thessalia. This aduerser wind fatally sent for the purchasing of Lysimachus enfranchisement continued thus contrarie thre moneths, the violence whereof, with the strange accidents that during the continuance thereof befell, I referre to the Annales of the Thessalians, which dilate not a little of it. These Pirates thus by a stormie constraint being sore against their wills compelled to lye quiet at roade, at length through long continuance necessitie began to haue eminencie, swaying all things with a check, and constraining them as tributorie to yelde the souerainetie vnto her supremacie. Whilist thus they were taxed with want, they bethought themselves how that the present season craved a warme coat, and a hot chimney; and therefore deemed it not vnbehouable, if by the diligence of two or thre, that want might be supplied. Which being concluded, our weather-beaten souldier Lysimachus was intoynd (saying that way desirous) to adde in that exploit his indulgence: who putting by all abuses with patience by the outward appearance, seemed so content with that present condition, as that little mistrust of reuenge in him was perceiued. Well, being come into the wood, Lysimachus thinking it his time to put in triall the assay of his redemption, heaued vp a forest bill which he had on his neck, and the first he strooke, had neuer after more head of the Whistion, charging his blowes with such magnanimitie, that the Slaves were amazed at his valour, so y in short time

The Historie of

time he had slain two, & left the third in such sort, that he doubted, as that there was none or very little hope of his recovery. Wearing rid his hands of these his wellwillers, he had not so much care of executing his intencion, as he had of escaping away with safetie, which as he performed with great diligence, so it wrought his future contented happines. The Pirates after long expectation waited (but all in vaine) for the returne of their adherents, whom when they perceived that every houre they were more slack in hastening homewards, misdoubted (and not amisse) least some unexpected casualtie might befall them, which when by their arrivall in that place they found true, seeing Lyfimachus was absent, imagined that through his meanes these horrible vades were brought to passe, but not daring to make pursuit after him, for feare of heaping over the shoules in transgressions, they rested patient, bearing unto their galley three dead carcases (so by this time the surgeon had yielded nature her due) to solemnize their funeralls with a watric buriall: what afterward betide of the I cease to relate, in that I neither esteeme the persons, nor valew their actions.

By this time Lyfimachus was come within the view of his host Procyons cottage, unto which he made with such celeritie, as the recovery thereof was speedie: being entred, he found the Shepheard and his wife at dinner, to whom after this manner he saluted. Gentle Shepheard, and courteous, tempered with the beautie of affabilitie, and the lineaments of thy face graced with the favours of clemency, as many good fortunes to you and your wife, as your selves can desire or imagin. Procyon hearing one so superfine, looking backward perceived that it was his guest Lyfimachus, whom (suddenly rising from the table) he entertained with as many favours, as he tolerated his absence with colours, whereupon he took him by the hand, and bade him welcome, willing him to sit downe in his place, and in his roome not only to eate his fill, but as Lord of the house to thinke himselfe welcome: well, so he thort, he fell eagerly to his viuals, and feasted himselfe with such rates as they had. As soon as he had victualled the camp.

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

camp, the Shepheard and his wife were desirous to heare what hard fortune compelled him to be so long absent, requested Lyfimachus to discourse (if it were not any wayes prejudiciall unto him) the cause of his so long continuance. Lyfimachus (desirous to satisfie the courtesie of his favourable host, first beginning his *Exordium* with a voile of sighes, and a fewe like warme teares) presented his discourse, and throughly informed them of his misfortunes, how as he was sitting under a covert most pleasantlie situated, which with the thickness of the boughes so shadowed the place, that Phœbus could not pry into that arbour, so thick were the tops of so thick a clore, that Venus there in her solitarie might have dallied unseene with her dearest paramour. Fast by to make the place more gorgeous, was there a font, so Christaline and clare, that it seemed Diana with her Nymphs and Hemadriades had that spring as the secret of their bathings. In this glorious arbour (I say) as I late, it chanced that certaine rascalls comming a booting into those parts discovered me, being discovered, halde me on ship-board, whither being halde, I had journeyed with them had not the winds in being more favourable forbad our course with their prosperous opposition. Lying thus still (quoth he) two moneths, at length necessity grew powerfull amongst vs, which willed vs with labour to supplie those things that else by propagation would be perilous, whereupon my selfe with three more being charged to undergo this enterprise, I supposed it not amisse being in a desert place, if I made hay while the Sunne shined, and took opportunitie by the forelocks, and thereupon betooke my selfe to my weapon, minding in this resolution either to escape away with safetie, or valiantly to die immediately, rather then I would be returned back and kept in such servile subiection, as though I were the sonne of some countrey vassale, from whom as you see I am delivred, and that with little pretence. When Procyon heard this he fell on the neck of Lyfimachus, being exceeding ioyfull for his safe arrivall, being thereto moved by reason that (so sundrie vertues which he

The Historie of

Some thing in his honest simplicitie) he loved him exceedingly, and took an intimate delight in his company: wherefore with these words of true friendship he did embrace him.

Lyfimachus, let not thy brothers unkindnes which thou hast felt, the inclemencie of thy kinne that I doubt hereafter thou shalt finde, nor the miseries whatsoever thou hast either passed, or dost endure, further appale thy spirit, then may be recovered by thy friends comfort. Thou knowest how dearly I have held thee, and what care ever since thy first sight I received of thy well doing, I had rather in action make knowne my love, then in words but wearie thy hearing: and albeit my abilitie cannot counteruaile my desire, yet in affliction I will not be wanting any waies unto you. Lyfimachus in a sudden passion surprised with this rare piece of friendship, after the recurrence of a little trance, yielded him most humble thanks: adding moreover, that if ever fortune tyed her favours in the top of his crest, he would not wound the remembrance of these his extraordinary courtesies with oblivion.

Resting thus in the house with the shepheard, to avoid tedious conceits, he framed himselfe so to countrie labours, that he oft times would leade the flockes to the field himselfe, and being best in homely attire, seemed like amorous Paris courting Oenone. Neere to this place dwelt the above-named Gentleman Syllanus, of great worship, greater possessions, but of greatest perfections, so that it was doubted, whether he was more indebted to his parents for pedigree, to nurture for pietie, or to fortune for prosperitie, yet most chiefly he thought himselfe beholden to Nature, that had in his decaying yeeres, and decrepit old age, bestowed on him so precious a pearle and deere iewel as his yong daughter Varrona, admired at that time as the onely Paragon and Phoenix of *Theffalia*: which thing this good old fire perceiving, made him as carefull to bryde her, as ioyfull that she was borne, thinking within himselfe that as she was notable

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

notable for her beautie, so should she be noted for her honesty: and seeing Nature had inuected her with so pleasing a personage, Nature should not denie her as plausible behaviour, and that she should be as sweete in manners, as seemely in making, which through his diligent performance afterwards came to passe.

This Varrona was the very picture and patterne of incomparable comeliness, the perfect pece in whom nature played her prize against arte, and in whome her silent oratorie pleaded both for price and prize. This Paragon seemed to surpasse the perfection of the rest amongst whom she was sorted, and amongst whome she shined as an orient pearle opposite to pebles, or Cynthias golden beames obscuring the twinkling starres: None erst looked on her, but loved her. Her stature was tall, and her golden-wiered tresses wherewith her comely head abounded, were inlarded with Unions and Oriches, with Diamonds and Chrysolites, saving some lawlesse locks amongst the rest hung loosely adorning her temples, being all prettily frilled, crisped, and tusked.

In her high forehead wherein no wrinkle appeared, Cupid had placed his Iuorie Bowe, on which her little eye-browes resembled Venus, beautified by the nere opposition of her black bearded Vulcan. What shall I stand in describing her eyes, those celestiall lamps, or her cheeks like damaske roses sprinkled with morning dew: in whose dimples were the Graces dwellings: What shall I recount her corall, daintie chinne, and allabaster neck: each part deserved praise, each member admiration. In sweet eloquence she resembled Cornelia: her looks were chearefull, yet chaste: merrie, yet modest: courteous, not contemptuous. Hercules Gallus had all mens eares linked in the chaine which he held in his hand, but Varrona held both their eares, tongues, and hearts, all men prattled of her, all prayed her. First, gazed they at the beauntie betwixt of her beautie, then at the excellencie of her bzaucie, then wondered

The Historie of

they at the rarenesse of her courtisie, then they admired her passing good graces, then were they amazed at the specialtie of her fine behaviour, the twinkling of her eyes did so dimme their lesser lights, that they could neither sustaine to behold her, or abstaine from beholding her. This Virgin, or rather Goddess, every day used to view the plaines wherein her fathers sheepe were kept, as it hath bene alreadie mentioned) in a skarlet petticoate, defending her face from the heate of the Sunne, with no other vail, but with a garland made of boughes and flowers: which attire became her so gallantly, as that she seemed to be the Goddess Flora her selfe for beautie. On a day as Lysimachus sat amongst the sheeps, by chance fixing his eyes on the glorious object of her face, he noted her tresses in such sort, that whereas heretofore he was a contemner of Venus, was now by the wilke shaft of Cupid so intangled in the perfection & beautifulnes excellencie of Varrona, as now he swore no benigne Planet but Venus, no God but Cupid, no exquisite Deitie but Love.

Being thus fettered with the pliant perswasions of fancie, impatient in his new affections, as the horse that neuer before felt the spur, he could not bide his new conceived amours, but before he came to Procyons house where daily he did continue, he endured such a Metamorphosis in his mind, that he was constrained to crosse himselfe with these or the like contrarieties.

But stay: what newe motions are these Lysimachus? what heauie conceits, what dumpeish thoughts possesse thee? what strange and vnacquainted fits disquiet thee? what surie, what fiend torments thee? by whome, where, when did it come Lysimachus? Ah Varrona, Varrona, heauenlie Varrona, and nothing but Varrona! why how now? hast thou so long escaped the snares of beautie, and must thou now tast of the baite? hast thou gazed on so many faces, & none but this could fit thy fancie? accompanied heretofore so many gallants, yet none could please thee: desired so many behaviours, viewed so many vertues, and none could delight thee, none could entice thee:

Lysimachus and Varrona.

thou? yea but stay Lysimachus, runne not too fast, least thou lose thy breath: wade not too farre sith thou art sure to sink: yeeld not to loue, as thou louest thy life: kill it in the rote, or breake it in the bud, beware of the blossome, as thou tenderest thy safetie. Thou hast bene alwaies accounted the despiier of fancie, and wilt thou now be noted the desirer of beautie? thou which hast trod Venus under thy foete, wilt thou wrap therein thy heart? carst reiecting them as fluttish ragges, and now regarding them as the garments of a Goddess? But Varrona, Oh swete Varrona, the very patterne of Vertue, beauties liuely grace, the onely Idea of Iupiters dycame, and paragon of natures perfection.

By this time he was come home, and casting himselfe immediately on his bed, on a sudden started as one in an extasie, surprised with the notable view of some rare singularitie, or drownd as it were in a deepe sea of surpassing delight, and wholly contemplating the substance of Varrona, which he alreadie most curiously had shadowed in his heart, he began to fall into a slumber, but loue impatient of delays and controlment, bestowed a sharpe arrow vpon him to aggrauate his sore that alreadie was vncurable, which made him with a new supplie redouble his griefs, with this passionate part.

For there is no stopping of the streame, but to force the greater flowing: no killing the vine by cutting it: the repressing of Cupids rage, is the more to kindle affection. Ah cursed Cupid, ah vniust deitie, the restrainer of libertie, the maister of folie, the ouerthrow of honestie, a ruine of youth, an arch nemie to the whole world: hast thou none to picke, none to poison, but poore Lysimachus? then would I he were not Lysimachus, or else as he hath bene Lysimachus. But alas must I needs shake hands with libertie, and bid freedomie farewell, must my quiet weale become a malecontented warre? must my pleasures be passions, my songs sighes and sobs, my mirth melancholy, my moderate thoughts amorous conceits? When farewell desire, on where desire dwelleth: farewell wit, if will beare sway: and farewell counsaile, if loue be the Lawier. But why dost thou

The Historie of

argue with loue, saying thou hast not thy loue: & say rather to enioy thy loue, so that any way thou mayest ease thy loue. Ah but whome doe I loue? Varrona, easse to be wonne if she were not Varrona. But infortunate Lysimachus, if he winne not Varrona: yea but what hope canst thou haue of her amitie, with whome as yet thou hast no acquaintance: Cease therefore to surmise that which surpasseth thy sense, die rather with desire then live for disgrace, for well maist thou loue Varrona, but neuer be liked of Varrona.

Lysimachus hauing thus tented his wound, and finding the hurt so desperate, yielded his maymed mind as a patient to be cured by Varronas onely mercie: perswading himselfe that there was none so dauntie, none so lustie, and none so cruel, but loyaltie with constancie might make them courteous. Dowering in this hope he began to take heart a grace, assuring himselfe almost of that gaine that was not so lightly gained, but when he mused in his conceits how Varrona was descended, how womens ears are not their touchstones, but their eyes, and how a dym of honour weighs belowe a pound of wit, how their hearts reacheth to the pulcs of their hands, and let a man see that with gold, and tis hard but they will proue his hearts gold, he was presently dyuen into such dampes, and being as it were in a labyrinth of thoughts, was faine to cease thinking. At the last coming to himselfe, he take it not amisse, if the next day he walked abroad to see if the fields would further his desires, or minister some matter to mitigate his maladie: but coming into the aire, the ague of loues disease began to shake him afresh, and made him sometimes hot, sometimes cold, sometimes in hope, and sometimes in feare; and thus at euery step in a contrarie thought, he heard the nightingale recorde in her song as he surmised his passionate sorowes, and applying his tune to her note, he began to beare his part.

Should I accuse mine eyes that boldly gazed
On that faire object not to be obtainede

Or,

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Or, blame the worth in Europe wonder blazed,
That them to looke, and me to loue constrained?

Eyes for excuse a headge preuailing reason,
Heart in extreames on fancies wrong exclaimed:
Hopes Sun shine clouded like obscurest season,
Yields to dispaire, at my misfortunes ay med.

Nature too lauish, outward graces planted,
Vertue too friendly, inward bounties sowed,
Yet those faire eyes of courteous lookes are scantied,
And Angels hue on tygers thoughts bestowed.
Tush, loue with griefes which did oppresse me fore
Is cause, that I my death like life deplore.

When Lysimachus had warbled out those words, and wrested the consideration of Varronas disposition, Venus willing to bestow vpon him the benefit of that friendly aspect, which he most desired, ordered so the matter y Varrona according to her vsuall manner did frequent the leas wherin her fathers sheepe grazed, who with two other damosells sat vnder the side of an hil, making a garland of such homely floures as the fildes did afford. This sight so reuiued his spirits that he dyetw night, with more indgment to take a view of her singular perfection, which he found to be such, as in that countrie attire she stained all the countrie dames of *Theffalia*: while thus he stood gazing with piercing lookes on her surpassing beantie, Varrona cast her eye aside, and espied Lysimachus, as yet altogether vnknewe vnto her, which sodaine sight made her to blush, and to die her chrystall cheekes with a vermilion red, which gaue her such a grace as that she seemed farre more beautifull. And with that rising vp, Lysimachus, (that could well skill to court all kind of degrees, least he might then be thought to haue little manners) encountred them thus.

Ladies

The Historie of

Ladies beleeue me, loue is of more force then warres, and the looks of women pierce deeper then the stroke of the lance, there is no Curtayl so thicke, but armour of high proofe can withstand: but beauties arrowes are so sharp, and the darts that flie from womens eyes are so piercing, as the Collet tempered by Vulcan for Didoes paramour, holds not out the violence of their strokes. The gods tremble when Mars shaketh his lance, but he feareth when Venus casteth a frowne. Alexander neuer took notice of the legions of his enemies, but he stood frighted at the beautie of the Amazon. When sweete saints of *Thessalia*, meruaile not if I were driuen into a maze at the sight of such beauteous creatures, whose faces are Venus weapons wherewith she checketh the pride of ouer-daring warriors. I cannot (Ladies) court it as your gallant pongsters, that tie their wits to their fancies, nor fill your eares with amorous discourses, as Cupids apprentices, that spend their time in such louing philosophic. Nor can I saine conceited supposes of affection, to proue my selfe loue-sicke by poetrie, but as a blunt shepheard new come from the feldes, I offer my selfe a deuout seruant to your beauties, swearing to defend your honours against all men with the hazard of my blood, and in patrone thereof, generally to you all, but specially to one (as loue hath his unitie) I desire to be entertained as a dutifull seruant to the Lady Varrona. Lysimachus hearing thus boldly worded these leucly virgins, the Ladies seeing with what affection he offered his service to Varrona, began to bite the lip, and she to blush, who seeing her selfe toucht to the quick, made this answer.

I know not (shepheard) how to answer of loue, because as yet I neuer knew loue: ignorant of his forces, because neuer acquainted with his fortunes. Vesta forbids vs virgins to name Venus, as they of *Ephesus* hatefull Erostratus. Diana doles not in *Paphos*, nor suffers she any of her maydens to hunt in *Ereynus*, least meeting with Venus meacocks, they slip with Calisto, and so seeke after losse. The lesse you are priuate to loues passions, the more welcome to our presence:

for

Lysimachus and Varrona.

For either had she fill our eares with shepheards sonnets, then with loues solies, and sweeter are the teares that grow from the toll of a fewe sheepe, then a smile from a comicke tale of fancies. For your seruice (gentle swaine) finding my selfe unworthie, I crave pardon, but if it please you to be accepted as a worthy shepheard, and my fathers friend, looke for such fauour as my honour and virginity can afford.

Lysimachus hearing the plausible answer of Varrona, although her first insinuation seemed to answer for his purpose, as preferring the labours of Diana, and fires of Vesta, before loues holy temples, yet she concluded so sweetly as might stand with the modestie of her honour, he therefore made thus his replie. In that Madame we are but nouices in loue, the simpler are our thoughts, and the neerer should be the sympathie of our affections. Dours match when they are yong, siens are grafted when they are sprigs, the one part not but by death, nor are the other seuered but they perish. Shepheards are like Virgins, the one striving to liue vertuous, the other to die patientlie, both enemies to loue, while they wait on those which breake not loue, I meane labour, and Vesta. But both must loue, as hating hearts, and thoughts, eyes to see beautie, and eares to iudge of vertue: I Madame, while I thought none greater then Pan, was bowed to Pan, but seeing womens wits are more powerfull then he, I haue resigned ouer my fortunes at his shrine, and meane to make proofe of the sweetness of loue: glad that in my first entrance I haue the patronage of your gracious fauour, armed with the which, Mars well may frowne, but not conquer. But sir (quoth Varrona) I granted my fauour to Lysimachus the shepheard, not to Lysimachus the lover. And so Madam quoth he) I accept of it, for I am a shepheard to do you seruice, and a lover despight of my selfe. Varrona being a Lady of passing merrie disposition, hearing him thus to reason prettily, thought to list him in this manner. I see well shepheard, that as women haue their fauours, so men haue their sayings, the one prodigall in graces, the other politick in deceit, being

as

The Historie of

as cunning to dissemble loue, as we charie to discharge loue:
We thought to haue found you a flat Shepheard, as ignorant
in loues, as we offancies, but how closely loeuer you couer
the flame, the fire will be knowne by the smoke. For your
falke so fauours of loues principles, as we iudge you are as
cunning in faining a passion, as in folding sheepe, and can as
soone deceiue a woman with a peece, as adde a cure to a diseased
lambe. This will make vs to take you for a day friend, and
what we like in you present, to disabuse to morrow, swearing
if you bring amongst vs Venus roses, we will beate you with
Vestaes nettles: and therefore if you will be admitted as our
Shepherd, we either forbid you to say no more of loue, or
else you shall be out of our fauours. If (Varrona) said he, thou
hadst enioyned me as Iuno did to Hercules most dangerous
labours, I would haue disconered my loue by obedience, and
my affection by death: with that putting forth his pipe, began
after some melodies to caroll this Madrigall.

What are my Sheepe without their woonted foode?
What my life except I gaine my loue?
My Sheepe consume, and faint for want of blood,
My life is lost, vlesse I grace approue.

No flower that saplesse thrives,
No turtle without pheare,

The day without the Sunne doth lowre for woe,
Then woe mine eyes vlesse they beawtie see,
My Sunne Varronas eyes, by whom I know
Wherein delight consists, where pleasures be.

Nought more the heart requies,
Then to embrace his deare.

The statutes from easie humours gaine their light,
Our humours by their light possesse their power:

Varrona

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Varronas eyes fed by my weeping sight,
Infuses my paines or ioyes, by smile or lower.

So wends the source of loue,
It feeds, it failes, it ends.

Kind lookes, cleare to your ioy, behold her eies,
Admire her heart, desire to tast her kisses:
In them the heauen of ioy, and solace lies,
Without them euery hope his succour misse.

Oh how I loue to proue,
Whereto this solace tends.

Scarcely had the Shepheard ended this Madrigale, but
Varrona began to frowne, saying, he had broken promise.
Lyfimachus alleadged if he uttered any passion, twas sung,
not said. Thus these two in an humorous descent of their
prattle, spied a farre off other Shepheards comming towards
them, so that he leaving the Gentlewomen, taking his leaue
friendly of them all, but specially with a pittifull glancing looke
towards Varrona, as craning some fauour for his farewell, he
stole to his Sheepe, & the damosels incontinently went home,
who by the way recalled to mind the proportion of Lyfima-
chus, his not vulgar behaviour, adding besides that his gate
was more stately then ordinarie Shepheards: moreover, a
kind of maiestie that remained in his lookes, the seemelines of
which did so shine farre aboue the rest, that all Thessalia sup-
posed that he was Coridon, or one more fine then Coridon,
sweet Phyllis her good man. When Varrona was come home,
she took leaue for a while of her two friends, and stealing into
her closet, she began to remember the diuine perfection of the
Shepheard. Cupid waiting to spie this Wall at aduantage,
seeing her halfe at discouert, vnloosed a shaft, headed with de-
fire, & feathered with conceit, which piercing the tender breast
of this yong maiden, he made her shrink at the blow, and so
breath out this complaint.

The Historie of

As me, now I see, and looking high to see, that Dianas lawrels, are harbourers of Venus doves; that there trace as well through the lawns, wantons, as chaste ones, that Calisto be the neuer so chaste will cast an amorous eye at courting lone, that Diana her selfe will change her shape, but she will not honour lone in a shadowe; maidens eyes, be they as hard as diamonds, yet Cupid hath drugs to make them more pliable then ware. See Varrona how fortune and loue haue interleagued themselves to be thy foes, and to make thee their subiect or else their obiect, haue inueigled thy sight, with a most glorious obiect. O late thou heldest Venus for a giglet, now a Goddesse, now thou shalt be forced to sue supplicat to her deitie: Cupid was a boy and blind, but alas his eye had aime enough to pierce thee to the heart. I haue heard them say, that loue lodges not at loue cottages, that Venus lets in robes, and not in rags, that her sonne flies so high, as that he scornes to touch povertie with his hand. Early Varrona thou seest but old wifes tales, and not the truth: with such all precepts, no profitable principles thy experience tells thee, that peasants haue their passions as well as princes: that swaines, as they haue their labours, so haue they their amours, & loue lurkes allone about a shepheard as a pallace. And for those dames that are like Diana, that affect loue in no shape, but in a shew of gold, I with them husbands with much wealth and little wit, that the want of the one may blowe out the abundance of the other. It shalbe mine the creature of a shepheards life to set the end of passions vpon pelfe. Loues eyes looke not so low as gold, there are no faces to be paled in Cupids courts, and in elder times the shepheards loue gifts were apples and chestnuts, and their desires were to all, and their thoughts constant. As she was thus debating the passions of her mind, one of her acquaintance interrupted her disquiet with his approach from the Duke her father presently to come to him: where for a while I will leaue her, and returne againe to tell you how the matter ended with Lysimachus.

Such was the inconstant fortune that he sustained to thinke on the witte and beautie of Varrona, as that he began

Lysimachus and Varrona.

gan to lose his wonted appetite, to looke pale and hoar in feat of of mirth, to see en melancholie & for countrie meriments, to the cold dumps. In so much that not onely Procyon and his wife Odris, but all the whole village began to maruaile at his suddaine alteration. thinking that some lingering sickness had brought him to this state. Wherefore they caused Physicians to come, but Lysimachus heither would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see his vaine: but remained still so oppressed with passions, as he feared in him selfe a further inconuenience. His povertie wished him to cease from such follies, but loue forced him to followe his fate, yea and in despite of povertie, he would the conquest: so that her hot desires caused him to find new remedies. For he presently entered his chamber, where he began to put downe the passions of his pen to this effect.

To the chaste Varrona continuall health.

My Adame, whether thou wilt call my beautie, or the vertue of your behaviour, hath afflicted my senses affectively. I leane it to your discreet iudgement to coniecture. But this I feele (although I be nummed in euery part) that some strange accident hath taken possession in the chiefe part of my heart, vowing there to continue untille he hath conquered euer my master of unitie, and swaine himself doe feele to your selfe, as their right soueraigne; and true mistresse. Although I denied him not the allegiance of a most louing and faithfull subiect, yet such was his rigorous iustice executed vpon me, that I should not enjoy my former libertie, and wounding my thoughts with the piercing rayes of your heavenly constancie, fettered my concourse in the gins of best liking, permitting me to liue onely to thinke on you. The bondage of my flauerie did not so greatly dislike me, as the beholding of young beautie did euerie way delight me: neither the straightnelle of my fetters did put me to so great paine, as the remembrance of my thought did procure my displeasure. As ho-

The Historie of

nour *Varrona* is it then a prison? nay a paradise: to serue *Varrona* is it captiuitie? nay rather a heauenly brauerie. Content (quoth I) I like, I loue, I honour *Varrona*, I feed, I liue, I die for *Varrona*.

Your loving captive and true subiect,
Lyfimachus.

When Lyfimachus had written out his passionate fancies he carried the paper to the messenger, which he so that purpose had prepared, desiring him to be the best regard in deliuerie of it, wishing him not to present his mistress therewith but till he saw her in some pleasant baine, so he was in great feare lest *Varrona* would rather rend then read it. *Toxeus* (so the messenger was called) expecting oportunitie, espied a time as he thought most conuenient, *Varrona* and two of the Gentlemen merrily discoursing of amorous philosophie, this messenger almost maruelling to see her so pleasant, thought it now the fittest time to make deliery of his message, gave her Lyfimachus letter, who perusing it to the first period, perceiued the practise of all, and beautifying her face with modest blushing, was halfe angrie with *Toxeus* that he made himselfe messenger of so baine a matter, yet considering it came from that worthy shepheard, she vouchsafed it, and wished the messenger in the evening to come for an answer. *Varrona* immediately upon her man *Toxeus* departure perused it a thousand times, and a thousand times kissed it, till at last wrapping it in a white silke scarfe, she gave it a place amongst her iewels of price: very glad therefore that Lyfimachus had given the onset, she determined to counterbasse him in this manner.

Varrona

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Varrona to Lyfimachus
health.

When I read (kind *Lyfimachus*) thy Letters, and spied thy loues, I blusht at mine owne thoughts, and sorrowed at thy fortunes. I search not the cause of thy loue, for it sufficeth me thou doest loue, if it lay in me, either to grant thy desire, or satisfie thy passions. Thy comeliness (*Lyfimachus*) knockes at the closet of my heart, thy exquisite feature sue for their maisters libertie: thy loyaltie enters peile me with my thoughts, and giueth a sore assault to my settled resolution: all these put in their pleas, doe purchase fauour for young *Lyfimachus*. But *Vessa*, hard hearted *Vessa*, that makes her virgins pliant to her owne properties, commaunds that I shut mine eares against such alluring Syrens. I count my selfe greatly fauoured with the loue of so worthie a swaine, and euer will *Varrona* couet to prooue thankfull, as he affectionate: onely in loue pardon me, for that I neuer mean to fall into that predicament. Wade not therefore where the foord hath no footing, barke not with the volues of *Syria* against the Moone, looke not to climbe to *Olympus*, way not at impossibilities, but pacific that with patience, which thou canst not obtaine being passionate. If thou thinkest these denials be but words of course, and perswadest thy selfe that women will be first coy, and then courteous, as the marble that drops of raine doe pierce, thou shalt (sweete heart) deeply deceiue thy selfe, and highly wrong me. In a word, I wish quiet to thy thoughts, and an end to thy loues.

I thinke euer but in loue,
Varrona.

Varrona having thus ended her letter, she deliuered it to *Toxeus*, who sending him speedily to Lyfimachus lodging, found him very melancholy, and all that was about *Varrona*. Lyfimachus having receiued the letter, entered into

The Historie of

into his Chamber, and read the contents. No sooner had he viewed and reueled once her cruell determination, but in a great extasie of minde he cried out (*Dulcor est mors quam amor*;) and with that flinging out of his Chamber, he fell into bitter, and extreame sorowes. Procyon grieving at his friends hard fortune, sought with plausible perswasions to appease his furious melancholie, wishing him whatsoeuer Varrona wyfe, still to thinke her a woman, that would one while thrust out fancie with a finger, and straight entertaine loue as a friend: that rather time, or his constancie would make her scope to the lure of his desires. Thus sought the Shepheard to wrest him from his passions; but in vaine, for her answers confirmed such such perswasive determinations. So quietted the conceit of his hope, that going melancholie to his bed, loue left him to his quiet slumbers which were not long, for as soone as Phoebus shaking his beauid locks on the mountaines, had posted from the watry cabbin of Nereus, summoning plow swaines to their handie labour, Lyfimachus rose, and with Procyon went into the fields, where unfolding their sheepe, they sate them downe vnder an Oliue tree, both of them diuersly affected, Lyfimachus ioying in the excellencie of Varrona; and Procyon sorowing for the griefes which Lyfimachus sustained, not quiet in thought till he might heare of his health. As thus both of them sate in their dumps, they might espie where Varrona with her two Gentlewomen tript amongst the lawnes. At this sodaine spectacle, as a man metamorphosed, he lightly sprang from the ground, desiring to salute the sole mistres of his thoughts: wherefore willing the Shepheard to expect his returne, he bowed her with this kind of greeting; giuing her likewise the *Boniorno* thus.

Gentle Nymph, all hayle, and as prosperous be you in your enterprizes, as you happie in content. If I be blunt in discouering my affections, and tedious in silence in dwelling on my loues, I appeale to the spirit of vertue which knoweth no subtilities, to frame my selfe therefore to your countenance, with much faith, and little flattery. Knowe dearest Varrona,

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

rona, that before I saw you I knew not leues cumber, but held affection as a toy, not as a maladie; vsing fancie as the Hiperborei do their flowers, which they weare in their bosomes all day, and cast them into the fire so; well at night. I liked all, because I loued none, and who was most faire, on her I sed mine eyes, but as charlie as the Bee, that as soone as she hath sucked hony from the Rose, straight flies to the Parigold. Liuing thus at my owne list, I wondred at such as were in loue, and when I read their passions, I took them only for poems that flowed from the quicknes of their wit, not the sorowes of the heart. But now faire Nymph loue hath taught me such a lesson, that I must confesse his deitie and dignitie, as there is nothing so pretious as beantie, so there is nothing more piercing then fancy. For since my eye took a curious suruey of your excellence, I haue been so fettered with your beantie and vertue, as (saith Varrona) Lyfimachus without further circumstance loues Varrona. I could point out my louely desires with long ambages, but seeing in many words lies mistrust, and that truth is euer naked, let this suffice for countrie toying, Lyfimachus loues Varrona, and none but Varrona. Although these words were most heauenlie harmonie in the eares of the Nymph, yet to some copy at the first courting, and to disaine loue, howsoeuer she disdained loue she made him this replie.

Ah Lyfimachus, though I seeme simple, yet am I more subtle then to swallow the hooke, because it hath a painted bait: as men are wise, so women are warie, specially if they haue that wit by others harmes to beware. Do we not know Lyfimachus, that mens tongues are like Mercuries pipe, that can inchaunt Argus with an hundred eyes: and their words as preiudiciall as the charmes of Circes, that transformed men into monsters? If such Syrens sing, we poore women had need stop our eares, least in hearing we grow so foolish hardie, as to belieue them: and so perishe in trusting much, and suspecting little. Lyfimachus *Pescator scilicet sapit*, he that hath bene once poisoned, and afterwards feare not to bolse

The Historie of

bowle of every potion, is toochie to suffer double penance. Give me leaue to mistrust, though I do not condemne. Lysimachus is now in love with Varrona, he a Shepheard of meane parents, she a Lady of great parentage: he poore, she honourable. Can love consist of contrarieties? Will the Falcon perch with the Hattrell: the Lion harbour with the Wolfe: Will Venus ioyne robes and rags together: or can there be a sympathie betwene a King and a begger? When Lysimachus, how can I beleue that love should unite our thoughts, when fortune hath set such difference betwene our degrees: But thou likest of Varronas beawtie. Men in their fancie resemble y^e *Alpe*, which scowles that flower frō which she had fetcht her name: playing like the inhabitants of the *Iland Tenerifa*, who whē they haue gathered the sweet spices, vie the trees for seluē: so men, hauing glotted theselues with the faire of womens faces, hold them for necessarie euils, and wearied with that which they seemed so much to love, cast away fancie, as children do their rattles: and loathing that which so deeplie before they liked, especially such as take love in a minute, and haue their eyes attractive like iet, apt to entertaine any object, are as readie to let it slip againe. Lysimachus hearing how Varrona harpt still on one string, which was the doubt of mens constancie, he brake off her sharp inuective thus.

I grant Varrona (quoth he) many men haue done amisse, in prouing some ripe, and some rotten, but particular instances infer no generall conclusions: and therefore I hope, what others haue faulted in, shall not preiudice my fauours. I will not vse sophistrie to confirme my love, for that is subtiltie: nor long discourses, least my words might be thought more then my saith: but if this will suffice, that by the trust of a Shepheard, I love Varrona, and looe Varrona, not to crop the blossomes, & rect the tree, but to consummate my faithfull desires in the honourable end of marriage. At this word marriage, Varrona stood in a maze what to answer, fearing if she were too coy, to daine him away with her disdain: if she were too courteous, to discover the beate of her desires; in a dilemma thus what to do, at last this she said.

Lysima-

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Lysimachus, ever since I saw thee, I favoured thee, I cannot dissemble my desires, because I see thou dost faithfully manifest thy thoughts, & in liking thee, I haue thee so far as my honour holds fancie still in suspence, but if I knew thee as vertuous as thy actions do pretend, and as well qualified whercof you make demonstration, the doubt should be quickly decided, but for this time to giue thee answer, assure thy selfe thus, I will either marrie with Lysimachus, or still liue a virgin, & with this they streined one anothers hand. He hauing his answer, gaue a courteous adieu to them 3. but specially to Varrona, & so playing loth to depart, he went to Procyon, who all this while attended his coming, vnto whom Lysimachus made a true relation of all those things which passed betwene them, aduertising him of the lenitiue remedies which she applied vnto his maladious spirit, whom we will for a time permit to meditate on his singular expectations, and returne vnto Syllanus, Varronas father. He hauing intelligence of the secret meetings which these two louers daily bled, being exceeding much displeased, vpon a day as he walked into his Garden, by chance he met with Varrona, accompanied with diuers Gentlewomen, whom saluting very grationly, he passed by them, and taking his daughter by the hand, walking aside with her into an open greene walke, fell into this talke with her.

Why huswife (quoth he) are you so idle tasked that you stand vpon thornes vntill you haue a husband: are you no sooner hatched with the Lapwing, but you wil run away with the shel on your head: some prick the tree that wil proue a thorne, and a girle that loues too soone wil repent too late. What a husband? why the maydes of Rome durst not looke at Venus temple till they were 30, nor went they vnmasked till they were married, that neither their beauties might allure other, nor they glance their eyes on euery wanton. *Egipt* is plagued with a dearth, I tell thee fond girle when *Nilus* ouerfloweth before his time, the trees that blossom in february, are nipped with the frost in May: vntimely fruits had neuer good fortune, & yong Gentlewomen that are wooed and wonne ere they be wise, sorrow and

The Historie of

repent before they be old. What saist thou in Lysimachus that thine eye must chafe, and thy heart must faine? Is he beautiful? why sonne girl, what thy eye liketh at moone, it hateth at night: loue is like a hauen but a blaze: and beantie, how can I better compare it then to the gorgeous Cedar, that is onely for shewe, and nothing for profit: to the apples of Tantalus that are precious in the eye, and dust in the hand: to the starre Antephilax that is most bright, but sitteth not for any compasse: to yong men that stand vpon their outward portraiture, I tell thee are pernicioull: Demophoon was sayre, but how dealt he with Phillis? Aeneas was a brave man, but a dissembler: all but little worth if they be not wealthie. And I pray thee what substance hath Lysimachus to endue thee with? hast thou not heard that want breake amitie, that loue which beginneth not in gold, doth end in beggerie: that such as marrie but to a faire face, tie themselves oft to a soule bargaine? And what wilt thou doe with a husband that is not able to maintaine thee? buy forsooth a dram of pleasure with a pound of sorrow, and a pint of content with a whole tunne of pernicioull displeasures? But why doe I cast stones in the ayre, or breath my words into the wind, when to perswade a woman from her will is to reboule Sisyphus stones: to tie a head-strong girl from loue, is to tie furies againe in fetters. Wherefore holwife as you tender my affection I commaund you to surcease those vaine and idle matters, which please me as much as the singing of a waspe: and shall profit you as little, as fire to quench your thirst. And with that in a rage he flung away not admitting her replie.

Varrona perceiuing her fathers good will thus alienated from her, fearing a further incommenience, did in humble submission her selfe to his disposing, not vling any longer her accustomed walks. Which Lysimachus perceiuing, mused greatly what should become of his loue; sometime he thought she had taken some word unkindly, and had taken the part, then he imagined some new loue had withdrawne her fancie, or haply she was sicke, or detained by some great businesse of Syllanus.

These

Lysimachus and Varrona.

These considerations did Lysimachus cast into his head, who hauing late in his heart, proued restless, and halfe without patience that Varrona wronged him with so long absence: for loue measures euery minute, and thinks houres to be daies, and daies to be monethes, till he seeth his cies with the sight of his desired object. Thus perplexed liued poore Lysimachus, in while on a day sitting with Procyon in a great dumpe, he was credibly informed by Toxeus of those sorrowfull accidents: at which being suddenly surpris'd with griefe, and fixing his eyes on the starrie concave, began thus in their presence to utter passionate complaints, not limiting his lamentations with distinct clauses, for his moane admitted no methode.

Anxious heauens (quoth he) hath your influence effected this misfortune: iust gods, haue you in enuying this my prosperitie, depriued me of the vield of that wherein I imagined my whole felicitie should consist: O gentle Cupid hast thou denying my Varrona fairer then thy Psyche, thwarted thus my doating humour? I will wander through the earth augmenting the springs with streames of my teares, filling the woods with rebounding Echoes of my woes, tracing the plaines with my restless steps. O that I might equall Orpheus in art, as I excell him in anguish! the powerful vertue of his beauefuly tunes amazed furious beasts, staid flut streames, raised stones, assembled trees, mouing sense in senselesse things. Descending to the silent vaults of Acheron, he caused ghostes to groane, shadowes to sigh, effecting relētting thoughts in helles remorselesse iudges. But were I his phere in that profession, I would do more, enforcing Syllanus her father not touched with such a sympathie, to leane his suspition, and grant me my loue: whether do I wander? Is this to rest: leane Lysimachus: may proceed Lysimachus: cease to suppose, begin to sorrow: O me, wretched me, hopelesse, hopelesse, what meanes can I now conceit, what deuile may now be potted? Hereat he slept, and opening the flood-gates of his eyes, distilled a shewer of teares, supplying his speeches with deere sighes: But resolving to proceed, he was interrupted by the shepheard: who hearing the

The Historie of

though of his complaints, lamented at the occasion of his loss, thought by all means to find palliament of his miserie the remembrance of these casualties, assuring him that time being the touchstone of love, would no doubt sort all things to his content: and so (quoth he) you see it is time to take our flockes, with that they might be (happy to their contentment) sent home: but he perceiued soon that his love was his destruction, and his thoughts set on fire with the flames of love, could take no rest, but began to ravinate daily upon the information which Varrona had received from her father. Remaining in this pitfull plight, finding on nothing but heauie dispaire, he became so changed in his bodie and soule, as though they had bene now departing. But his good hap his mourning being overheard by the good shepheard, and finding him so transhamed, most pitifully comforted Varrona thereof. She hauing taken diligent notice of this his information, admired greatly at the constancie of his affection, and seeing her father upon urgent affaires was rode to the Court, she deemed it not amisse herselfe to goe and visit him. When calling vpon Lysimachus with a still voice, recovered him better with her words, then with all the potions or hot drinckes she could deuise to giue him. Lysimachus staring her in the face, muttered (as it seemed) to himselfe, but remained speechlesse, but she with great care comforted him (as a woman heart no good words in such a case) and brought him againe to the use of his tongue, wherewith he coulered out these words.

Oh Varrona! cruel dispaire hath so mangled my sweet hope, that unless I finde some speedie remedie, the wound will growe incurable, and killing to see forward his breath failed him. Lysimachus (quoth she) as I am ignorant of the cause, so I am forsoothall for the disease: and I would I had as much power to heale the extremitie, as will to performe it, if it shall not preiudice the glorie of my credit, or blench my honour: therefore if it be in my hands to better thee, assure thy selfe to enjoy the benefit, the honour of my name alwayes excepted.

Lysimachus

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Lysimachus thinking a while thought it best to discover himselfe, and presently to receiue the comfort to life, or the reprie to death (for his life & death did depend in her answer) & praying the rest to depart, with a sighing spirit, and trembling chere, disclosed himselfe.

Oh my sweete Varrona, in whose answers is seated my heauen or hell; to recount to you my sorowes, or repeat my loue, can neither ease me of the one, or further me in the other, seeing your selfe shall appeare a witness in them both. Although that reason did somewhat prefer me, by the benefit of seemely gouernment, keeping in subiection the untamed appetite of furious affections, yet confirming it by my stone eyesight, the manifold graces wherewith nature hath mightily enriched you, I found my thoughts so fiercely assaulted, that either I must yeeld to be your captiue, or else die in the combat. When the glittering beames of your heauenly perfections so pierced my heart, that I was forced to forsake reason, to followe affections and to forgoe libertie, to live in bondage: if it may be redeemed bondage, to serue with loue such rare excellencie. Having tasted so much of fancies cup, and the drinke dispiercing it selfe into every part, I felt such passions in mine vnacquainted conceits, that nothing but the remembrance of your sweetest sake, could procure my ease, fully resolved to serue, loue, and honour Varrona, till the destinies of death should denie me. Tumbling in the extremitie of these strange passions, and hearing that the fathers suspicion, or rather iealousie of our late united simpatie, both watch like Argus ouer lo, unwilling that thou shouldst passe beyond the reach of his eye, unless as he thinks thou shouldst overreach thy selfe, my contents were turned into delays complaints, and my pleasure was apt in this labyrinth of grieuous lamentations: but now noting the extremitie of thy fortunes, I find that Venus hath made thee constant to requite my miseries, and that where the greatest onset is giuen by fortune, there is strongest defence made by affection.

Thus

The Historie of

Thus I doubt not but thy father in watching thee, over-seeth himselfe, and (I hope) profiteth as little, as they which gaze on the flames of *Etna*, which vanish out of the sight in smoake. Varrona thoughtlie vnderstanding his rare and ruthfull discourse, with weeping eyes, and sorrowfull chere, embracing him in her armes, after a sacred kisse, gaue him this swete comfort.

The heauens Lyfimachus by their miraculous working haue taken truce with our affections, whose diuine influence, I thinke by some secret contemplation do seeme to conclude our loue. It may be I haue been liked of some, and flattered of many, but neuer deserued of any, but only of thee Lyfimachus, whose life, loue, and loyaltie, may iustly claime an interest in the fauourable consent, and constancie of thy Varrona. Lyfimachus hearing this heauenlie harmonie, was so ravished betwene ioy and feare (so he feared least it had bin but a dreame) that he was not able to vtter one word, but at last sensibly perceiuing that it was no vision, but the veritie of his desires, staying himselfe by her hand, concluded thus.

Ah swete Varrona, the only reuiuer of my dying spirit, although neither heauen nor earth can afford me thanks sufficient to requite thine honourable fauour, yet shall the zealous truth and tried loue of Lyfimachus affections encounter the glorie of Varronas beawtie. And I vowe by the heauens, that when Lyfimachus shall let his eye slip from thy beawtie, or his thoughts from thy qualities, or his heart from thy vertues, or his whole life from euer honouring thee, then shall heauen cease to haue starres, the earth trees, the world elements, and euery thing reuered shall fall to their former Chaos. Having thus plight their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in *Thessalia*, so that Syllanus consent would neuer be granted to so meane a match, Varrona determined as soone as time and opportunitie would give her leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many rich and costly iewels for the easier carriage, and then to transport themselves and their treasure into *Thracia*, where

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

where they would leade a contented life, vntill such time as either she should be reconciled to her father, or else by succession, (being the sole child her father had) come to the Dukedome. This deuise was greatlie praised of Lyfimachus, so he feared, if the Duke her father should but heare of the contract, that his furie would be such, as no lesse then death would stand for painment. He therefore told her that delay bred danger, that many mishaps did fall out betwene the cup and the lip, and that to auoid anger it were best with as much spede as might be to passe out of *Thessalia*, least fortune might preuent their pretence with some new despight. Varrona, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch her affaires with as great haste as either time or opportunitie would giue her leaue, and so resting vpon this point after many embracings and swete kisses they departed.

Varrona hauing taken her leaue of her best beloved Lyfimachus, went immediately home, her merrie countenance giuing no suspicion of mistrust at all. Lyfimachus poore soule was no lesse ioyfull, that being a Shepheard, fortune had fauoured him so, as to reward him with the loue of a Ladie, hoping in time to be advanced from that condition, to be the husband of a rich Princesse. So that he thought every houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger, not ceasing still to go euery day to his Sheepe, not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire he had to see his loue, and swete heart Varrona, who oftentimes when opportunitie would serue priuately repaired thither (albeit her fathers prohibition to the contrary) to feede her fancie with the swete content of Lyfimachus presence. And albeit she neuer went to visit him but most secretly, yet her oft repaire made her not only suspected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours, who for the good will they bare to old Procyon, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to aduertise Lyfimachus of it, that he would if it were possible restraine his libertie. In the meane time Varrona was not slacke in her affaires, but applied her matters with such diligence, that she prouided all things fit

The Historie of

for their journey. Treasure and Jewels she had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend then money in a strange country: rich attire she had provided for Lysimachus, and because she could not bring the matter to passe, without the help and aduise of some one, she made the clo seruant of hers called Toxeus, who had serued her from his chudhode priuie to her affaires, who seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert her from her settled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so secretlie in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a Ship readie for their passage. The Partners, seeing a fit gale of wind for their purpose, wished Toxeus to make no delapes, least if they pretermitted this good weather, they might stay long ere they had such a faire winde. Toxeus fearing that his negligence should hinder the iourney, in the night time conueighed the Trunkes full of treasure into the Ship, and by secret meanes let Lysimachus vnderstand, that the next morning they meant to depart: he vpon the newes slept very little that night, but got him vp early and went to his shoope, looking euery minute when he should see Varrona. Now for the valiantnes of a virgin, or rather consider the force of loue, which maketh the weake strong, the witlesse wise, the simple subtle, yea, and the most cowardes most couragious. For that morning Varrona attired her selfe in one of her Pages apparell, and trudge out of the towne, as if she had been sent on some message, and so fast as her saint legges (but strengthened by loue) could carrie her, she halsted through the woods to the fields, where the saint whom she only honoured was readie to receiue her: who though at the first he knew her not, but thought she had been Cupid or Mercurie fallen from the heauens, yet at length by her louing lookes cast vpon him, he knew who it was, and embracing her fast in his armes, said; If Iupiter (sweete wench) should see thee in this Pages apparell, no doubt but he would forgoe his Ganymede, and take thee vp into heauen in his chere. O most soueraigne Ladie and Mistresse, what service shall I be able euer to do you, which

may

Lysimachus and Varrona.

may counteruaile this kindnes: what dutie can be a due recompence to this good will: If I by any meanes can requite this curtesie, I neuer doubt to be deemed vngratefull while I liue. But accept (good Ladie) I beseech you, that which is in me to perfoyme, which is, the faithfulllest heart that euer was bowed to Ladie, which when it swerueth from you, let the torments of Tantalus, Tytus, Syphus, and all the ruthfull rout of hell be heaped vpon me. Varrona hearing him so earnest, said.

Few words (most wortie Lysimachus) are enough to win credit to a matter already believed: for only vpon confidence of your constant & faithfull heart towards me, I haue thus vndoubtedly aduentured mine honour as you see, desiring you not sinisterlie to thinke of this my attempt, being bolded thereto by the great loue which I bare towards you, & by the loyaltie which I looke for of you towards me. Ah (said Lysimachus) if I should make any ill interpretatiō of your vertuous loue and sincere affection towards me, I were the veriest villaine on earth: for I take God to wilnes, I take your forward will for such friendly fauour, that I doubt my deserts will neuer be able to answer thereto as I desire: and with that he aptly ended his talk vpo her mouth. Now from thence they posted to the haven where the Ship lay, not daring any longer to stay for feare of apprehension by posts which should be sent after the. Whither so soone as they were come, the Partners were readie with their Cock-boate to set them aboard, where being coucht together in a cabbin, they hoisting their maine sailes weighed anchor, and haled into the deepe, haying a lustie gale in the poore which drave them gallantly forward. Went on the next morning about the breake of the day, the aire began to be overcast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell, yea presently there arose such a fearefull tempest as the Ship was in danger to be swallowed vp with euery sea, the maine mast with y violence of the wind was throwne ouer-board, the sayles were torne, the tackling went in sunder, the storme raging still so furiously, that poore Varrona was almost dead for feare, but that the

The Historie of

was greatly comforted with the presence of Lysimachus. The tempest continued thre daies, all which time the mariners every minute looked for death, and the ayre was so darkened with cloudes, that the maister could not tell by the compass in what coast they were. But upon the fourth day about nine of the clock, the wind began to cease, the sea to waue calme, and the skie to be cleere, and the mariners descried the coast of *Arcadia*: shooting off their ordinance for ioy that they had escaped such a fearful tempest. Lysimachus hearing that they were arrived at some harbor, sweetly kissed Varrona, & bad her be of good courage, being set on land, and rewarding the mariners bountifully for their paines, they sojourned in a little village a mile distant from the sea, where after they had rested for a day, they made promise for their marriage, which according to the sacred rites was solemnely celebrated: which being performed, putting on pilgrims apparrell, they went hand in hand, and heart in hart, wailfully and wilfully wandring in that unknowne countrie *Arcadia*, to auoide further punishment and displeasure.

See (gentlewomen) the lamentable lot of loue which drave Varrona from her pleasant pallace, from her flourishing friends, from her traine of seruants, from her sumptuous fare, from her gorgeous garments, from varietie of delights, from secure quietnesse: yea from heauenly happines, to wilde wilderness: to desert dens, to careful caues: to hard chere with halues and hippes, to pilgrims pelts: to perill of spoiling, to danger of deuouring, to miserie of mind, to affliction of bodie, yea to helish heauinesse. pittiles parent! to prefer his own hate before his childes loue, his owne displeasures, before his childes pleasures, to forget that himselfe was once yong and subiect to loue, to measure the fire flames of youth by the dead coals of age, to gouerne his child by his owne lust, which now is, not which was in times past. To seeke to alter his naturall affection from his daughter vpon so light a cause, shewing himselfe a rebell to nature, to vndo the destinies, and disappoint the appointment of the Gods, shewing himselfe a traytor to them.

Two

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Two or thre daies being passed, and noe newes heard of Varrona, Syllanus assured of her escape, cryed out as a man halfe lunaticke, he was by Lysimachus robd of his onely iewel, whereupon in a despairing furie he commanded Procyon to be sent for in all hast. Who maruailing what the matter should be, began to examine his owne conscience, wherein he had offended the Duke, but emboldned with his innocencie, couragiously went to the pallace: whither as soone as he came, he was not admitted vnto the presence of Syllanus, but presently sent to prison. Many passionate thoughts came into his head, till at last he began to fall into consideration of Lysimachus follies, and to meditate with himselfe: leaning his head on his hand, and his elbow on his knee, full of sorrow, grief, and disquieted passions, he resolved into these tearines.

Unhappie Procyon, whome too much courtesie hath led to these misfortunes, and vaine credulitie was apt in the maze of these calamities. Now I see, but alas too late, that the smoothest tales for the most part haue put small truth, that the foulest skin is covered with faire paintings, that vice lieth obfuscated in the cinders of honest simplicitie. Woe worth the day wherein my eie offended in the prodigallitie of her sight: woe worth that I pittied his distresses, relieved his wants, took compassion of his necessities, succoured his state, entertained him, ransomed, affected him, and approued his behauior. All these I greatly feare, will if not ruinate my selfe, yet make shipwrecke of my credit and liking with the Duke, so that by liuing I shall die to want, & by death purchase such a name of infamie as neuer shall be forgotten: be penitent, & assign thy life some penance to discouer thy sorrow, & pacifie his wrath. In the depth of this his passion, he was sent for to the duke, who with a looke that threatned death, intertained him & demanded of him where his daughter was. Procyon made answer, that indeede Lysimachus was too familiar with Varrona his daughter: whereupon I fearing the worst (quoth he) about 3. or 4. daies past verte sharply rebuked him for his saucinesse: adding moreover, that if it were not left, he would bring both vpon himselfe extreme pzeudice, and

The Historie of

and eternall confusion vpon me and my wife: now the next morning after, I neither heard of him or sawe him. Syllanus perceiuing the mans vnfaigned simplicitie, let him depart without incurring further displeasure, concealing such secret grieffe for his daughters rechelesse follie, that she had so forgotten her honour, and parentage, by so base a choice, to dishonour her father, and discredit her selfe, that with verie care and thought he fell into a quartaine feuer, which was so vnto for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake, as the physicians would not grant him no life. And one day being in his agonie he breathed out his griefs in this sorrowfull sort.

If nature by the diuine providence of God, did not moue vs to the maintenance of mankind, surely the charge of children is such a heauie burden, that it would feare men from entering into the holy state of matrimony. For to omit the inconuenience of their infancy, which are infinite, when they come once to mans estate, what trespasse they should be a stay to our staggering age, good God with what trouble do they torment vs with what cares do they consume vs: what amoures doe they afflict our decaying yeares withal? They say we are renewed and renewed as it were in our offspring, but we may say we die daylie in thinking of the desperate doings of our children. And as the spider feeleth if her webbe be prickt but with the point of a thorne: so if our children be touched but with the least trouble that is, we feele the force of it to pierce vs to the heart. But how well this tender care is by them considered, alas it maketh my heart blinde to thinke. If we looke for obedience of them, and that they should followe our counsaile in the contriue of their affaires, why they imagine we doate, and their owne wits are farre better then ours. If we warne them to be warie and chaste, they thinke it proudeth rather of conceitnesse then of kindnesse: if we prouide them no marriages, it is because we will depart with no liuing to them: if we perswade them to marriage, it is because we will haue them to forsake all good fellowship, and liue like clownes in the countrey by the plough-tail: if we perswade

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

perswade them to learning, it is, that they might liue by it without our charge: if we perswade them to one wife rather then an other, it is because the one is richer then the other. If we looke seuerely to them, we loue them not: if we vse them familiarly, we feede them with flatterie, because we will giue them little: and so of all our louing doings they make these lewd deuises: yea when we haue brought them vp with great care and cost, when we haue trauailed all our time by sea and by land, early and late, in paine and in perrill, to heape vp treasure for them, when we haue by continuall toyle shortned our owne liues, to lengthen and enlarge their liuings and possessions, yet if we suffer them not to royst and to ryot, to spill and to spoge, to lauish and to consume, yea and to follow the furie of their owne frantick fancies in all things, this sorrow is our recompence, they wish an end of our liues, to haue our liuings.

Alas, a lamentable case, why hath not nature caused loue to ascend as well as descend? why hath she indued the Stoake with this propertie, to feede his damme when she is old, and men with such malice to wish their parents death when they are aged? But I speake perchance of my owne proper grieffe, God forbid it should be a common case: for my daughter (why doe I call her daughter) hath not onely wished my death but wrought it. She knewe she was my onely delight: she knewe I could not liue, she being out of my sight: she knew her desperate disobedience would bring me to a desperate death. And could she now so much doate on a poore thing heard, to force so little of her louing father? Alas a husband is to be preferred before father and friend: but had she none to fixe her fancie on but a Swaine, the sonne of I knowe not whome? Alas loue hath no respect of persons: yet was not my good will and comfort to be crueld therein? alas she sawe noe possibilitie to obtaine it.

But now alas, I would grant my good will, but it is too late,

The Historie of

late, her feare of my forie is too great euer to be found, her guilt is too great, euer to looke me in the face any more, and my sorrow is too great, euer to be salued. And thereupon got him to bed very heauilie affected, dayly bewayling the losse of his daughter Varrona, with whom I do now begin.

The Sunne sojourning in his winter mansion had distressed *Arcadia* of all her pleasures, and disgarnished *Vestaes* mantle of delights variable choice, wherewith *Flora* had in plentie powdered the freshnes of her earst Greene hue. Night luted in a duskie robe of pitchie darkenes, besieged the globe with long shadowes, while *Phoebus* wanting wonted vigour, did by darting his scarce reflected beames, afford small comfort to the earths increase, so that *Arcadia* earst the soveraigne seat of all content, and sole place of worlds perfections, seemed now a patterne of the ancient *Chaos*, wherein all things (if things) were confounded. fields flowerlesse, trees leauelesse, ground heatelesse, brookes streamelesse, springs unhaunted, groues unhalowed, augmented this hue of horrour, blemish of *Enrops* paradise. The mayden huntresse *Arcadiaes* patronesse, did seldom trace the plaines guarded with her troupe of virgin knights, to fire shafts on the flying beasts, whose wont was in time of heauens more milde aspect, to grace the fields with her daily presence, and when her brothers scorching heat tired her limbs with faintnes, to bath her chaste bodie in some pleasant brooke. Nor did the wanton *Satyres* lightlie skipping on the painted meades, (painted I meane by natures worke-manship) vaunt their bodie agilitie to the fairie wood-symphs. *Pan*, *Arcadiaes* president, pend vp himselfe in his winter lodging, and the other rurall powers seeing their glories date ended for that yeere, shrouded themselves in the place of their wonted repose. In this season, a season well fitting their melancholie thoughts distracted with moodie passions, *Varrona* and *Lyfimachus*, the maps of fortunes mutabilitie, left their countrie, wandred in midst of winters rage surcharged with sorrow, the extremitie whereof made them haplesse abjects, while rough *Boreas* winters benchman murthering

Lyfimachus and *Varrona*.

stirring legions of stormes, scourged the plaines with a troupe of tempests, and aimed his violent blasts at the tallest trees to lop their heights pride, and combatting with his companions, filled the aire with dreadfull noyse of their tumultuous encounter; these infortunate louers, in whose minds lone martialled millions of stirring passions, thus wandring, whom faurie lost in a boundlesse Ocean of perplexing thoughts, ceased not their transtie till the weathers intemperate furie calmed by heauens milder influence, took truce with time, and sealed the attonement with a sodaine change. But when *Phoebus* renuing his partly task, and denying longer residence to stormie winter, had pierced earths entrails with comfortable warmth, opening a fruitfull passage for the issue of her wombe, to cloath *Pomonaes* branches with natures bountie, and diapre her owne mantle with *Floraes* sense-alluring pomp; *Lyfimachus* and *Varrona* entred the maine continent of *Arcadia*, where seeing the late hue of horrour turned to an heauen of eyes happines, they redoubled many sighes drawn from the depth of their wofull hearts centre: for remembzing that *Tellus* was earst dismantled, the trees bereaued of their blossomes beautie, earths naturall deities anatomized by time, in the place where frostie *Hyenas* had displayed her ycie trophies, they lamented to thinke that these tokens of worlds mutabilitie, had recovered their former flourish by the yeeres timely alteration, but their desperate fortunes (as they imagined) had no hope of any happie spring to calme the winter of their woes. Downed in these deepe meditations, they proceeded pensive, but they had not walked farre, when they espied a faire broad Lake, whose spacious branches enuironed the ground lying vnderneath with a shade circle. Where they determined to rest a while their bodie wearied by long iourneys, and somewhat disburthen their soules by displaying their sorrows.

As thus they were discoursing of their fortunes, they beheld as they looked back an *Arcadian*, and by his habit semed a Shepherd, who ouer-hearing the last words of their complaints, and aiming (though amisse) at the occasion of their sor-

The Historie of

reboes, thought that being strangers he lamented y^e losse of their way, to which imagination applying his words, he began thus.

Friends (soz so I may tearme you without offence) the day is almost spent, and the night being dangerous soz such as you are, or at least seeme to be, I meane strangers: accept then a simple lodging in my cottage, with such homely fare as Shepheards houses yeeld, and when to morrowes Sunne shall display his bright (though late forscke) beames, ye may prosecute your intended iourney, wherein if my directions may further you, ye shall find mercadie to affoord them. They wondering at such rare humanitie harboured in those contemptible weeds, made a lōg pause as if they had enioyned their mouths to perpetuall silence, at last Lysimachus spapt him this replie.

Friend (soz so your proffered courtesie binds vs to tearme you) muse not that sobe interrupt my words, or sozrowes season my discourse, which onely comfort my fates haue assigned me. What we were we list not now to reapeate, what we are, you see, we grieve: a lodging in your cottage we gladly accept: your cuntry fare we wil thankfullie receiue; your directions wil be needlesse, soz we wander thus bp and downe to light on some cottage, where I and my wife, with this our seruant may dwell, soz we purpose to buy some ffarme, and a flock of sheep, to become shepheards, meaning to lue low, & content vs with a cuntry life: soz I haue heard some say that they drink without suspition, & sleepe without care. And if this double fauour do proceed frō you, then in requitall of your courtesie, first, we beseech Iupiter Xenius the patron of hospitalitie, and protector of strangers, to blesse our labours, prosper our attempts, and enrich your store with hoped plentie: next, we vowe by that bright lamp heauens ornament, that if fortune (as she is neuer stable) raise vs frō so low an ebbe to the wonted height of our good hap, we will remunerate your kindnes with most ample recompence. Alexis (such was the Shepheards name) seeing maiestie in their looks, grauitie seated in disguise, royaltie suited in base attire, gathered by these probable coniectures, that they could be of no meane degree; moued therfore with a desperate remoyse, he courteously intreated them to repaire to his simple

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Simple lodging, and remaine there till fortune should conuert her frownes into sauiours, protesting that though he could not entertaine them as the qualitie of their condition required, yet he would supplie in good will the disabling defects of his low estate; and soz the buying of a ffarme (quoth he) ye come in good time, soz my Landlord intends to sell both the ffarme, hill, and the flocke I keepe, and theape ye may haue them soz readie money: which wrought such cheeresulnes in their hearts, that they yeilded him millions of thanks, and accompanied him to his house. Into which when they entred, they found it not grossely emboss, yet gailie trimmed: not courtlie, yet comely: though homely, yet handsome: and they were kindly welcomed by Alexis wife, who greeted them with a merrie countenance, being by her husband certified of their fortunes.

The next moone they lay long in bed, as wearied with the toile of vnaccustomed trauaile; but as soone as they got bp, they resolved there to set bp their rest, & by the help of Alexis, swapt a bargaine with his Landlord, and so became maisters of the ffarme, & of the flock, her selfe putting on the attire of a Shepherdesse, and Lysimachus of a yong swaine, both esteemed famous amongst y^e Shepheards of *Arcadia*. Living thus iointly together, they began to be as Ciceronicall, as they were amorous, with their hands thrust conetig to satiffie their hearts thirst, & to be as diligent in labours, as they were affectionate in loues, so that the parish wherein they liued so affected them soz the course of their life, that they were counted the very narrours of a Democraticall methode. Living thus in a league of vnited vertues, fortune enuying their prosperitie, raised bp one Marchander to race & beate down if it were possible, the firme foundation of their faithfull building, and biding together.

Soz this Marchander glauncing his gazing eyes on the blasing beautie of Varrona, receiued so deepe an impression of her perfection in his heart, that immediately he fixed his fancie bpō her comely corps. And being the chief ruler of the citie, he perswaded himself that there was none in that town so stout, but would stoupe at his lure: noz any so faire, but would faire

The Historie of

employ themselves to pleasure him: but one the other side, the renowned vertue of Varrona came to his mind, which performed an impossibilitie to his purpose: and floating thus betwixt hope and despaire, he entred into these tearmes.

Wretched wretch that I am, to whom shall I adresse my complaints? Is it the heavenly power & gods of loue that haue deprived me of my senses, & shewed their diuine working in me? Or is it the hellish fogs, and spirits of spight, that bereaued me of reason, & executed their crueltie on me? Is it loue that leadeth me to this lust? Or is it hate y^e haileth me to this hurt & mischief. No, no, the Gods guide vs to goodnes, the furies of hell they force vs to filthines: neither doth that any way deserue the name of loue, which bringeth such torment to my troubled minds, y^e all the diuels in the world could not performe the like. But see my rashnes, why am I so blindly bold, beastly to blaspheme against y^e which proceeds altogether from nature, which nature hath imparted to all men, and which I ought to follow without repining or resisting: for so long as I follow nature as my guide, I cannot doe amisse, & seeing nature hath taught vs to loue, why should I not rather proue her precepts, then rebuke that which by natures loue is allowed? And touching torment of mind, or other incommenience that it bringeth, is it all able to impair the least comfort which I shall enioy in embracing my Varrona? Is it not meete that he which would reape, should sow, he that would gather frute, should plant trees, he that would reach the stoerke rose, should note and then be scratched with the sharpe thiers? I meane, is it meet, if I purpose to possesse so proper a peece as Varrona is, y^e I should eschew labours, or refuse any perill in the pursuit thereof? And hereupon he determined to follow the furie of his fancie, what pangs or danger soeuer he thereby indured, & hauing resolved many waies in his mind how he might aspire to his purpose, at length he resolved upon this, to institute a sumptuous banquet: whereto he invited the chiefe of the citie, amongst whom Lysimachus & his wife Varrona were not forgotten, the onely authors of the feast. Now for the more royall receiving of his

guests,

Lysimachus and Varrona.

guests, he met them at the entrie into his pallace, and gaue them this greeting.

Faire Ladies, as I am right ioyfull of your presence, so am I no lesse sorrowfull for the paines you haue taken, in undertaking so great a iourney this darke and mistie evening, for the which I must account my selfe so much the more beholuing to you, by how much greater your labour was in coming, and by how much lesse your chere shall be able to counteruaile it now you are come. And taking Varrona by the hand, he said softly vnto her. I pittie the paines of these gentlewomen the lesse, for that you were in their company, whose piercing eyes, as celestiall starres, or heavenly lamps, might serue for lights in the darke, whose sweete face might perfume the aire from all noysome smells which might annoy them, & beholding your liuely looks, & perfect shape, they might take such delight, that the wearinesse of the way could nothing molest or grieue them. Varrona hearing her selfe so greatly praised or so great a personage as he was, could not keepe the roses red out of her alablaster cheekes, & thinking no serpentine malice to lie hid vnder these merrie & sugred wordes, she gaue him this courteous answer. If sir the company had made no better provision for lights, and other things necessarie, then such as you speake of, they might some haue slipt into the mire: but as I perceiue by your wordes, you are disposed to iust, and be merrie, so I am content for this once to be made the instrument thereof, thereby to ease some part of the paines which you are like to take in receiving such troublesome guests as we are: and for our chere you neede take no thought, for it shall be so much too good for vs, by how much lesse we haue deserued any at all your hands. After this amorous encounter, he caused the company to sit downe to the banquet, and so disposed the matter that Varrona sat at the table right ouer against him, whereby he freely fed his eyes on that meat which couerted rather to the nourishment of sickness, then to wholesome humours of health. For as the finest meats, by one in extremitie of sickness, resolve not to purge blood, to strengthen the bodie, but to watrish humours to seed the teuer

The Historie of

and disease, so though her face and looks were fine and sweet, and brought delight to all the beholders eyes, yet to him they wrought onely torment & vexation of mind. And notwithstanding he perceived her beauty to breed his bane, and her looks to procure the losse of his libertie, & that as the Cocatrice by sight only slaieth, so she by curteous countenance only killed & wounded his heart, yet would he not refraine his eyes from beholding hir, but according to the nature of the sickly patient, which chiefly desireth that which most of all is forbidden him, he so incessantly threw his passionate glances towards her, that his eyes were altogether bleared with her beautie, and she also at the length began to perceive his loving looks towards her, which made her toke pale, in token of the little pleasure she took in his toyes, & of the great feare she had lest some other should mark them, wherby her good name might come in question. The banquet being ended, every one of the prepared themselves to heare a stage play, which was the readie to be performed: But Mæchander being able to play but one part, which was of a poore distracted lover, determined to goe forward with the tragedie already begun betwæne Varrona and him, and seeing her set out of her husbands sight, placed himselfe by her, and entered into reasoning with her, to this purpose.

If faire Varrona this simple banquet had bene so sweet and pleasant to your seemely selfe and the rest, as your sight is delightful to me, I am perswaded you would not have changed your cheer for Nectar and Ambrosia, which the Poets saie to be food of the gods, but seeing there was no cause of delight in the one, & the other containeth that in it which may content the Gods themselves, I shall desire you in good part to accept the one, and courtously to accept me worthy to enjoy the other. And though I have not heretofore by dutifull service manifested unto you the loyaltie of my love, yet if my poore hart could signifie unto you the assaults which it hath suffered for your sake, I doubt not but that you would confesse, that by force of love I had won you, & were worthy to weare you. For albeit by humane lawes your husband onely hath interest in you, yet by

natures

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

natures lawes, which being more ancient, ought to be of more authoritie, he ought to enjoy you, which ioyneth most in you: which loveth you best, & endureth most paine for your sake. And for proofe of natures lawes, may it please you to consider the qualitie of the she wolfe, who alwaies chooseth that wolfe for her make, who is made most leane and soule by following her: besides that, my title marcheth vnder the ensign of iustice, which is a vertue: giving to every one according to his deserts: & that the reward of love is onely love againe, I know you are not ignorant. For all the Gods in the world are not able to requite good will, the one belonging to the mind, the other incident to the bodie: but from the equitie of my cause I appeale to your good grace & favour: and at the barre of your beautie, I humbly hold up my hands, meaning to be tryed by your owne courtesie, & my owne loyaltie, & minding to abide your sentence either of consent unto life, or denial unto death. Varrona hearing this discourse, looked one while red for shame, another while pale for anger: neither would disdain let her make him answer, nor grief give her leave to hold her peace: but standing in a maze, betwæne silence and speaking, at length she brake of the one, and burst out into the other in this sort.

If (sir) your banquet had bene no better, then this your talke is pleasant unto me, I am perswaded the dishes would have bene taken whole from the table without touching: but as the one was far better then the company deserved, so the other, for a far worse woman might more fitly have served: & if your sweet meat have such sower savour, the next time you send for me I will make you such an answer as was made to Craterus the Emperour by Diogenes, when he sent for him to make his abode with him in his court: who answered, he had rather be fed at Athens with salt, then to live with him in all delicacie: so for my part, I promise you, I had rather be fed at home with bread & water, then pay so dearly for dainty dishes. Touching the paines you have endured for my sake, I take your words to be as false towards me, as you would make my faith towards my husband: But admit they were true, seeing I have not bin the cause of the,

3

The Historie of

I count not my selfe bound in conscience to countermaile them, only I am loy they were not bestowed on some man worthe your estate, and lesse worthe an honest name then my selfe, which being the chiefe riches I haue, I meane most diligently to keepe. The interest which cauellingly you claime in me, as it consisteth of false premises, so though they were true, yet the conclusion which you infer thereof followeth not necessarily. For were it so that your loue were greater towards me then my husbands (which you cannot induce me to beleue) yet seeing he by order of lawe hath first taken possession of me, your title succeeding his, your succession & suite must needs be cold & naught: for as your selfe saith of lawes so of titles, the first are euer of most force, and the most ancient of most authority. Your woluishe example though it shew your sorely bzaine, yet both it inforce no such pꝛofe to your purpose, but that by my former reason it may be refuted, for that the wolfe is free from the proper possession of any: but therein truly you obserue *decorum*. in using the example of a beast in so brutish a cause: for like purpose like pꝛofe: like man like matter.

Your manly marching vnder the ensigne of iustice, if reason be your Captaine generall to leade you, I doubt not but some to turne to a retire: for if it be good will which you beare me, I must needs grant you duly deserue the like againe, but when you are able to pꝛoue it good will to deflowre my chastitie, to bereaue me of my good name, to dispoile me of my honour, to cause me to transgresse the bonds of honestie, to infringe my faith towards my husband, to violate the sacred rites of Matrimonie, with other innumerable enormities, when I say you are able to pꝛoue these to pꝛoccede from affection, then will I willingly yeeld consent to your request. But see the unreasonable of your suite, would you haue me in shewing courtesie towards you, commit crueltie towards my selfe: Should I in extending mercie to you, bring my selfe to miserie: Should I place you in pleasure, and displace my selfe of all ioy: For what solace can a woman purchase, having lost her chastitie, which ought to be the ioy, it well, and ienime of all

Gentle

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Gentlewomen of what calling and countenance soever: Your appeale from your owne cause to my courtesie, betwixt the naughtinesse thereof: for if it be not ill, why stick you not to it: if it be good, why appeale you from it: But seeing you haue constituted me iudge in this case, you know it is not the part of a iudge to deale partially, or to respect the man more then the matter, or to tender more my owne case then your cause: therefore indifferently this sentence definitiue I giue, I condemne you henceforth to perpetuall silence in this suite, and that you neuer hereafter open your mouth herein, being a matter most vnseemly for your honour, and most pꝛejudiciall to my honestie: and in abiding this sentence (if you can be content with honest amitie) for the courtesie which I haue found at your hands, and for the good will which you pretend to beare me, I promise you you shal enioy the second place in my heart, and you shall finde me friendly in all things, which either you with reason can aske, or I with honestie grant. Machander hauing heard this angell thus amiably pronouncing these words, was so rapt in admiration of her wisdom, and raptured in contemplation of her beaultie, that though she had not imiyned him to silence, yet had he not had a word to say: and least his looks might betwixt his loue, and his countenance discover his case, he secretly and sodainely withdrew himselfe into his chamber, to studie what face to set on the matter: and casting himselfe vpon the bed, after he had dreamed a while vpon his doating deuises, at length he awaked out of his wauering thoughts, and recovering the possession of his senses againe, he sung this mournfull Dittie.

Mechanders Sonnet.

O Cupid thou, which doest in hauty skies,
Amongst the great and mightie gods sojourne:
And eke that present art with terrene wights,
To cause their hearts with louers lawes to burne.

The Historie of

To thee O God, whose bowe and golden shaft
Doth wound both gods, and men alike:
And caushest euery one, to yeeld themselues to thee,
And subiects to become, for all *Dianas* spite.

To thee I make, and sweare my fixed vowe,
If I by help of thee, my wished ioyes attaine:
Then must I onely praise thy mighty bowe,
And subiect will to thee alwayes remaine.

By this time the Play was ended, and his guests readie to depart, wherupon he was oxien to come forth of his chamber, to take leane of them: and bidaing his mistres good night, he gaue her such a look, that his very eyes seemed to pleade for pittie: so that what his tongue durst not, his eyes did. His guests being gone, he disposed himselfe to rest, but loue willed him otherwise to employ that night, which was in examining particularly euery point of her answer. And though the first part seemed somewhat sharp and rigozous, and the second contained the confutation of his cause, yet the third and last part seemed to be mixt with mettall of more milde matter, which he repeated to himselfe a thousand times, and thereupon, as vpon a firme foundation, determined to raise vp his building againe, which the two former parts of her answer had vtterlie ransackt to the ground. But mistaking the nature of the soyle whereon the foundation was laid, his fabrike (as if it had been set in the sand) came to ruine: for by that promise of friendship, which she kindlie made him, he sinisserly conceiued hope of obtaining that, which she neither with honour could promise, nor with honestie performe: and feeding himselfe with that vaine hope, in great bzauerie, as in a manner assured of the victorie, he wrote vnto her to this effect.

Machander

Lyfonia and Varrona.

*Machander to Varrona, writeth what he
wants himselfe.*

ALbeit good mistres, you haue inioyned my tongue to silence, yet my hands are at libertie to bewray the secrets of my heart: and though you haue taken my heart prisoner, yet my head hath free power to pleade for release and reliefe. Neither would I you should count me in the number of those cowardly soldiers, who at the first Canon that roareth, giue over the siege, for I haue been alwayes settled in this opinion, that the more hard the fight is, the more haughtie is the conquest, and the more doubtfull the battaile, the more doughtie the victorie. And as it is not the part of a politike Captaine to put himselfe in perill, without hope of gaine or praise: so to winne the bulwarke of your brest, I count it a more rich bottie, then *Cesar* had in ransacking so many Cities: and a more rare praise, then euer *Alexander* had in subduing so many nations. And though my presumption may seeme great in assaulting one as is your sweete selfe, yet seeing in all degrees of friendship equalitie is chiefly considered, I trust you will cleare me of crime that way: neither would I you should thinke my flight so free, as to stoop to any vile flight. For the haughtie Hawke will not pray on carion, for neither will courtlie silks practise countrie fluts. But because I know that to be in you, which both concerneth my calling, and contenteth with my fancie, I haue chosen you for the gilllesse of my deuotions, humbly beseeching you, that you may not be said your name hath bin called vpon in vaine: whereby you may loose that honour which I in zeale doe owe vnto you. The benefit which you bestow on me, by granting me the second place in your heart, as I must acknowledge, though somewhat vnthankfullie, so must I craue a greater, though somewhat vnreasonable, and for the sake of my heart and bodie are yours, the thankes of my person, and of my amends. Weigh the matter vpon this, and take your course: courteous, and take compassion on me speedily.
Tours altogether *Machander*.

The Historie of

To this letter he answered this passion.

MY boate doth passe the straights
of seas inuolued with fire:
Fild with forgetfulnesse,
amidst the winters night:
A blind and careless boy,
(brought vp by fond desire)
Doth guide me in the sea
of sorrow and despight.

For every oare, he sets
a ranke of foolish thoughts,
And cuts (in stead of wauc)
a hope without distresse,
The winde of my deepe sighes
(that thunder still for nought)
Hauē split my sailes with feare,
with care and heauinesse.

A mightie storme of teares,
a blacke and hideous cloud,
A thousand fierce dishaines,
Doe slacke the tacklings oft,
Till ignorants doth pull,
and error hale the throwd,
No starre for safetie shines,
no Phoebe from aloft.

Time hath subdued art, and ioy is slave to woe,
Alas (lous-guide) be kind, what shall I perish so

Varrona hearing received and read this letter, was al-
ways diuersly sometimes with ioy, in thinking on the time
she first saw him, or he her: sometimes with repentance of her
former promise made him: sometimes with pittie on his part:
some-

Lysimachus and Varrona.

sometimes with pittie on her stone: but at length pittie ban-
quished pittie, and caused her to send this rough replie to his
letter.

*Varrona misbeth to Lysimachus remorse of
conscience, and regard of benefite.*

THe little account you make of me, and my good will,
I perceiue by the little care you haue to satisfie that
which I gaue you in charge. You would ill haue done as the
knight *Virg* did, who at the comādemēt of his Ladie *Li-
sa* forbore the vse of his tongue, and remained dumbe the
termē of three yeares. But as you subtilly think to discharge
your selfe of my iunction, by writing, and not speaking, so
by writing I simply do you vnderstand, that siō henceforth
you looke for no more fauour at my hands, then at stran-
gers, I will not say an enemies. For seeing my promise was
but vpon cōdition, the cōdition being violated, my promise
is void. And seeing you haue plaied the pelting marchant
venturer, to hazard that good will and credit you haue had
with me, to get more, the tempest of my iust displeased mind
hath driuen your sute against the rough rockes of repulse,
and you haue made shipwracke of al. Your couragious per-
sisting in your purpose, proueth you rather a desperate for
then a discreet souldier: for to hop against the hill, & striae
against the streame, hath euer bene counted extreme folly.
Your valiant venturing for a pray of value, proceeds rather
of couetousnes then of courage: for the valiant souldier see-
keth glory, not gain: but therein you may be fitly resem-
bled to the caterpillar, which cleaueth onely to the good
friute: or to the moath, which most of al eateth the best cloth:
or to the canker, which commonly broodeth in the fairest rose.

The equalitie which you pretend to be betweene vs, is al-
together vnequall, for both you exceed me in degree, and I
exceed you in honesty: so that neither in calling or quality, ther
is any equality betwene vs. If her as you haue chosen me for
your goddesse, I beseech you suffer me to remaine an earth-
ly creature: and leave you that God which can bridle your

The historie of

wanton desires, and give your grace to give your neighbours leue to live honestly by you, lest you make this nation vaine, who will verily punish your vanitie at the length, though for a time he suffer you to walke in your wickednes. For it is the prudent policie of God, to suffer the sinfull long time to swim in their sinne, to make their downfall more hideous, by their sodaine thinking from prosperitie to aduersitie. For that is euer most bitter vnto him, who hath long time liued in prosperitie: neither must you thinke that that which is deferred is taken away. For at your selfe, or any other, that oweth money, though you defer your creditor for a time, yet you defraude him that altogether of his due. So, though God take daies with you for a time, yet assure your selfe he will pay you at the length: yea and purchase with large vsurie, besides the due debt. And this good counsaile take of me, as the last benefit which you shall receiue at my hands.

Tears nothing at all,

Varrona.

Marchander hearing some this rigorous resolution of his mistresse, went another way to worke, he suborned an old woman of the citie, wel serued in soliciting such lutes, to go vnto her and present her from him with many rich iewels, all which (he tolde her to tell) he would willingly bestow for one simple consent of her good will. The old woman became (as he would haue said) having done his shameful meeting, and did put selfe in this sort.

Surely mistresse Varrona, if the experiences which old women haue given me, might craue credit for the counsaile which I shall giue you, I would not wish you to delude the world, nor such a one as is Marchander, to be able to fill your purse with pearles, and fulfill you with pleasures every way: neither is it wisdom for you to spend your golden yeares, but in a golden pleasure, and not to be tied to one diet which bringeth such

84

and

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

also leachmannesse, but to haue choice of change which bringeth appetite and lustinelle.

The chaste eares of Varrona not able to endure this base discourse, she cut off her ghostly counsel with these inuective words. Gentlewoman if you were endued with as many good conditions as you haue liued yeares, you would neuer haue undertaken so shamefull a message: and were it not more for reuerence of your yeares, then in respect of your errand, I would make your filthie trade of life so famous, that you should euer hereafter be ashamed to shew your face in any honest companie. What doe you thinke, though money can make you a bawd, that it can make me an harlot: and though you for gaine see no filthynesse, that I for glorie see no faithfulness either towards my spouse and husband, or towards my Lord and God? Doe you iudge me so couetous of coine, or so prodigal of my honour, that to get the one, I will lose the other? Doth he that sent you thinke so obiectlie of me, that gaine may more pꝛeuail with me then good will, money more then a man, iewells more then gentleness, pearles more then troubles which he hath endured for my sake? So let him vnderstand, if any thing could haue caused me to sworne from my ductie, lone not lute should haue allured me thereto. But as I am fully resolved, faithfully to keepe my bove, and promise made to my husband, so I beseech him not to bestow any more labour in attempting that, vnto which he shall neuer attaine: for before this my resolution shall be reuerfed, he shall see the dissolution of my bodie into dust. But if he will not thus giue over his lute, he will cause me to make those priue to his dealings, who will make him ashamed of them: and for your part, packe you hence with this your trumperie, to those which measure their honour by the price of profit, and their glorie by the guerdon of gaine. This good old subordi gentlewoman being gone away with a flea in her eare, Varrona began to thinke on the matter with aduised deliberation, and entered into reasoning with her selfe in this sort.

What

The Historie of

What fearefull follie is this in me to contemne the friendship of so great a Lord, whom the fairest Labie in this land would willingly receiue for husband, and I rigorously refuse for seruant? What is that honour wherupon I stand so fixtly? Shall it not rather increase my dignitie, to haue so noble a seruant? And what is that chastitie which I seeke so charily to keepe? Do not some men say, that women alwayes liue chastly ynough, so that they liue charily ynough: that is, so that they conueigh their matters so covertly, that their doings be not commonly knowne: for otherwise to incontinencie were added impudencie; likewise for a woman to enter in conuersation with a rascall of no reputation, cannot be but a great blemish to the brightnesse of her name: for a soule adultercr, is euer worse then adulterie it selfe. And is it not a great signe she loatheth her husband, when she liketh one better, which is euery way worse? But to haue a friend of reservation whose very countenance may credit her husband, methinks cannot be no great dishonour, either to the one, or to the other. What discredit was it to Helen, when she left her husband Menelaus and went with Paris to Troy? did not the whole glorie of Greece to her great glorie goe in armes to fetch her againe? And if she had not been counted a peece of price, or if by that fact she had defaced her honour, is it to be thought the Grecians would haue continued tenne yeeres in warre continually to win her againe? But to leaue honour and chastitie, and come to commoditie and safetie, what do I know what perils will follow of this repulse? Is it likely Marchander will put bp this reproch patiently? May I not iustly looke to haue his loue turned to hate, and that he will either by tyrannous meanes seeke the subuersion of my husband, or by treacherous designements worke the overthrow of me, and my good name? For the first, Edward a King of England may serue for an example, who when the Countesse of Salisbury would not consent to content his incontinent desire, he so raged against her parents and friends, as that the father was forced to perswade his owne daughter to folly, and the

Lysimachus and Varrona.

the mother as a bawde to prostitute her to the kings lust, and bring her to his priue chamber. For the second, the Earle of Panceliar may serue for testimonie, who when the Dutchesse of Sawoy would not yeeld to his lasciuious lust, wrought such wiles, that she was condemned for adulterie, and iudged to suffer most shamefull death by burning. Now to preuent either of these perils, it lieth in my power: and seeing of euils the least is to be chosen, I thinke it better then to hazard life, liuing, or good name, to lose that which shall be no great losse to my husband or my selfe: for as the Sunne though it shine on vs here in Arcadia, yet it giueth light likewise to those which are in England, and other places, so is there that in me wherewith Lysimachus may be satisfied, and Marchander sufficed. And this encourageth me thereto the rather, for that I see by experience in most of my neighbours, that those are euer most made of, who that way deale most falsely with their husbands. Besides that, how openly soeuer they deale in these affaires, their husbands neuer heare of it: and though they do, yet will they not hearken vnto it: and albeit they do in a manner see it, yet will they not beleue it: and though thereto they giue credance, yet will they loue them the better, to haue them leaue it the sooner. Againe, what know I whether my husband deales falsely with me, and roble in some other streame, which if it be so, I shall but saue his soule in paying his debts, and exercise the vertue of iustice in requiting like for like. And touching the corruption of my blood, I thinke it made more noble, in participating with one of more dignitie then is my husband. But canst thou harlot call him husband whom thou meanest so wickedly to betray? Am I in my wits to vse these senselesse words? Is it my mouth that hath vttered this blasphemie: or was it the Diuell within me that deliuered it forth? For if I were guiltie but in thought hereto, I would restore the fault with criminall pennance: yea if I felt any part in me apt to any such euill, I would cut it off, for feare of infecting the rest of the body. Good God whither now is honour fled, which was euer wont to be the fairest flower in my garland? whither now

The Historie of

is chastitie banished, which hath been alwaies the chiefest stay of my state: Shall the sunne of my shining life be now eclipsed with an act so filthy, that the very remembrance thereof is no lesse grievous then death? Why was Helen for all her beauty betw any other accounted then a common harlot? and was it not onely to be reuenged on her, and on her champion Paris that the *Grecians* continued their siege so long? And touching the inconueniences which may incurre by this refusall, is any euill worse then dishonestie? Is there any thing to be feared more then offence? Is not the lesse of goods lesse then of ones good name? Is not an honorable death to be preferred before an infamous life? And touching the Countesse before rehearsed, had she euer married with the King if she had not continued in her constancie to the end? And for the Dutchesse of *Sanoy*, what hurt sustained she by that false accusation? did it not make her glorie and vertue shew more splendentlic to the view of the whole world? yea no doubt of it.

For like as *Straines* the more you hinder their current, the greater is the deluge, or as the hearb *Camomile*, the more it is suppressed, the more it spreadeth abroad: euen so vertue and honestie, the more they are wronged with enuie, the more they eleuate and extend their flourish: for honour euer more is the reward of vertue, and doth accompany it as duly as the shadow doth the body. And as the *Sunne* though it be vnder a cloude keepeth still his brightnesse, albeit by vs it cannot be discerned: so vertue though it be darkened with diuclish deuises, yet it reserveth her power and vigour still, though to vs it seeme utterly to be extinguished: so that so long as I remember vertue and honestie, I neede not care what man, what malice, or the diuell can deuise against me. No, no, sweete husband, I will not make thee ashamed to shew thy face amongst the best of them: and I will let thee vnderstand the villanie which that viper *Marchander* induoureth to do thee. And shall I deale so fondly indeede? Is not the repulse punishment ynough, vnlesse I betwray his doings to *Lyfimachus*, and so procure him further displeasure? yea, I might thereby be oc-

casion

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

casion to set them together by the eares, whereby it might fall out (as the euent of battaile is alwayes doubtfull, that my husband might be hurt, or slaine, and the common report would be (as the people are euer prone to speake the worst) that I, being an ill woman, had conspired his confusion and set *Marchander* to sleigh him. And though no such thing chaunced (as God forbid it should) yet this at least I should be sure to get by it, that my husband euer after would be iealous ouer me, and right carefull would he be to keepe that which he sawe others so busily to seeke. And (such is the malice of men perchance he would iudge some light behauiour in me to be the cause that encouraged *Marchander* to attempt my chastitie. For men haue this common opinion amongst them, that as there is no smoake but where there is fire, so seldome is there any frequent loue, but where there hath been some kindnes shewed to kindle ones desire. Moreover, this toy may take him in the head, that it is a practise betwene vs two to prevent suspicion, and cloake our loue: and with the firme perswasion of my inuincible chastitie, to lull him a sleepe in securitie, and then most to deceiue him, when he least suspected guile. And if at any time he heare of it by others, I may stop his mouth with this, that I my selfe told him of it, which if I had meant to deale falsely with him, I would not haue done. Psea what know I whether he will like the better or worse of me, for breeding such a bees nest in his baine? Lastly, I should derogate much from my owne chastitie, and in a manner accuse my selfe of pronenesse to fall that way, as though I were not strong ynough to withstand his assaults without the assistance of my husband. Psea God, in whom I repose my trust, shall fortifie me against the furie of my foes, and giue me grace with wisdom to escape his wiles, with charitentie to eschew his charmes, and with pietie to resist his prauities.

Now to returne to *Marchander*: so soone as that old bawde had related vnto him at large the answer of his mistress, he fell from the place where he sat, flat vpon the ground, and lay in a traunce a great while: and now those sparkes which before loue had kindled in him, were with continuall

The Historie of

fighes so blicke, as it were with a paire of bellowses, that they brake forth into fierie flames, & that which befoze was fancie, was now turned into turie. For being come to himselfe, or rather being quite past himselfe, with staring lookes, pale countenance, with fierie eyes with gnashing teeth, with trembling tongue, in rage he roared forth these words. And shall I thus be frustrate of my desire? Shall I with words and workes, with prayers and presents, pursue the good will of a daintie disdaining dame, and receiue but laboꝝ for my loue, and griefe for my affection? But oh franticke foole, why doe I in a furie rage against her, who is the most faire and courteous creature vnder heauen? No, it is that churle Lyfimachus that soweth the seed of my sorrow, it is his seneritie towards her, that causeth her crueltie towards me, the feare which she hath of him, is the cause, she dareth not take compassion on my afflictions. And shall he swim in blisse, and I lie drencht in deepe dispaire? Shall he be ingorged with pleasure, and I pine away in paine? No I will make him feele that once, which he maketh me feele a thousand times a day. And hereupon determined with himselfe by some means or other, to procure the death of Lyfimachus, thinking thereby the sooner to obtaine his purpose of his wife. And calling vnto him one of his swearing swash-buckler seruants, he layde befoze him the platfoꝝme of his purpose, and told him plainly if he would speedily dispatch Lyfimachus out of the way, he would giue him a thousand crowns in his purse, to keepe him in another country. His seruant though altogether past grace, yet for fashion sake began to aduise his master moze wisely, saying.

For my owne part it maketh no matter, for an other countrie is as good for me as this, and I count any place my country where I may liue well and wealthyly: But for your selfe, it is requisite that extraordinary care be added, in regarde that your loue towards Varrona is knowne to diuers of this cittie, by reason wherof, if I should comit any such fact, it must needs be thought that you are accessarie thereto, which will turne, though not to your death, (for that none hath authoritie aboue you

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

you to execute the rigour of the lawes vpon you) yet to your bitter shame and reproach it cannot but conuert. Lush (said his maister) the case is light where counsaile can take place: what talkest thou to me of shame, that am by inurious and spitefull dealing depriued of the vse of reason, and dispossest of my wits and senses. Neither am I the first that haue played the like part. Did not Dauid the chosen seruant of God, being blasted with the beautie of Bersheba, cause her husband Vrias to be set in the banward to be slaine, which done he married his wife? And why is it not lawfull for me to doe the like? But I know the worst of it, if thou wilt not take it vpon thee, I will either perfoꝝme it my selfe, or procure some other that shall. The man seeing how his maister was bent, both to satisfie his mind, and to gaine so great a summe of money, consented as soone as opportunitie would giue him leaue to murder Lyfimachus: wherewith Maechander remained somewhat appeased, hoping now to be inuested into the throne of his delights. But the ground of this vnnaturall deuise was most strangely detected. For all their consultations were ouerheard by Conscionato, an other of Maechanders men, but moze religiously addicted, being then resident in a chamber nere adioynning vnto that place wherein those things were thus debated. He utterly condemning his maisters too much luxurious thoughts, and greatly misliking his fellows impudent promise, but especially affecting Lyfimachus as a man in whom the true sparkes of vertue were eminent, made manifest incontinently the whole conspiracie, which Maechander for the losse of his wife had deuised against him, desiring him not to account him a traytoꝝ for betraying his maisters counsel, but to thinke that he did it for conscience: hoping that although his maister inflamed with desire, or incensed by lust, had imagined such causelesse mischief, yet when time should asswage his desires, and moderate his affections, that then he would count him as a faithfull seruant, that with such care had kept his maisters credit.

The Historie of

Lyfimachus had not fully heard the man tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare possessed all his limmes, thinking that there was some plot wrought, and that the fellow did but shadowe his craft with these false colours; wherefore he began to war in choller, and said that he doubted not Marchander, sith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bene any breach of amitie: he had not sought any wages to wrong him, with slanderous speeches to offend him, by sinister reports to rocke his patience: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knewe not therefore any cause that should moue Marchander to seek his death, but suspected it to be a compacted knauierie of some, to bring the gentlewoman and him at odds. Conscionato staying him in the middell of his talke, told him, that to dally with suspected friends, was with the Swans to sing against their death: and that if some had intended any such secret mischief, it might haue bene better brought to passe, then by revealing the conspiracie: therefore he did all to miscondure of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder murder, not to become a murderer and to so- firme his promise, if it please him with his wife to flie out of Arcadia for the safegard of his life, he would goe with him, and if then he found not such a practise to be pretended, let his imagined treacherie be repayed with most monstrous torments. Lyfimachus hearing the folowne protestation of the seruant, attributed credit thereto, willing him to abide at his house a day or two, that thereby the man which should accomplish this stratageme being discovered, he might with more certitude auoide the ensuing danger. But when the day was growne by many hours aged, Conscionato who had giuen Lyfimachus to vnderstand of his intended purpose, might espy where his fellow Christophero *de mala mente* came posting to his house againe, which thing after Lyfimachus had knowne, arming himselfe for the purpose, as hauing a sword obscured by the couerture of his cloake, walked downe a grove, which Christophero perceiuing, and seeing none nether for his succour, with his cutlar violently rushed vpon him: but Lyfimachus hauing

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Hauing enermoe an eye vpon him, with facilitie auoided the blowe, and with such courage threw him to the ground, falling vpon his chest with so willing a waight, that Christophero yielded nature her due, and Lyfimachus the victorie.

He forthwith informed the chiefe officers of the cittie of these accidents, who examining very effectually the matter, found Marchander a swaying leacher, whereupon they not only amerced him a great fine to be paid to Lyfimachus and Varrona, but put him for cuer after from bearing any office in that cittie. Thus where these two louers delivered from their enenies, and reckoned now famous for their vertues through all Arcadia. This strange euent spread abroad through all the countrie, and as faine flies swift and farre, so at length it came to the eares of Syllanus, who hearing by sundry reports the same of their forwardnesse, how Lyfimachus coueted to be most louing to his daughter, and she most dutifull to him, and both to strue to exceed one another in loyaltie, and glad at this mutuall agreement, he fell from the furie of his former melancholy passion, and satisfied himselfe with a contented patience, that at last he directed letters to his sonne in law, that he should make repaire to his house with his daughter. Which newes was no sooner come to the eares of this married couple, but providing for all things necessarie for the furniture of their voiage, they posted as fast as they could to the sea coast. Where taking shippe, and hauing a prosperous gale, in a day and a night they were set on shore in Thessalia: who speedily arriuing at their fathers house, found such friendly entertainment at the old mans hand, that they counted this smile of fortune able to counteruaile all the contrarie stormes that the aduerse Planets had inflicted vpon them.

Syllanus for safe recovery of his daughter, surprised with exceeding great joy, wait the last end of his liues leged. Lyfimachus after the death of his father in law was created Duke of Hypata, and being willing to recompence old Procyon, of a shepheards made him a knight. Toxeus was preferred into

The Historie of

into the kings service, being substituted Captain of his guard: and because I will not blot from your thoughts the remembrance of all those actions, Conscioanato by act of parliament was made *Barb of Cypera*, & their farme in *Arcadia* made sure to Alexis, *Et heredibus suis in perpetuum*. These two lovers thus floating in the top of louers gallantise, transcreated the sea of their life in so peaceable a calme, turning all their actions with the sweet consents of mutuall amitie, that they were accounted the onely p̄sidents of married gouernment. What should I say? they liued a mirror to men, a wonder to women, and a maze to all, which when it changeth expect for newes. Now to close vp this comicall Catastrophe with a tragicall *Gratage*, I will relate vnto you the historie of Valentine, brother to *Lyfimachus*, and the fortunes of those two suborned villains, as in the beginning herof I promised.

The Historie of Valentine, and the two Beggars.

Valentine utterly forgetting y^e abuses which he had offered his brother, thought himself so surely seated, as no sinister chance or dismal influence might remoue. He that is constant in nothing but inconstancie, began in a faire skie to produce a tempest thus. It fell out as he frequented the court of *Diocles* King of *Macedonia*, that he fixed his eyes on the face of a noble gentlewoman, named *Fuluia*, daughter of *Hermodius*. And as the mouse mumpeth so long at the baite, that at length she is taken in the trap: so he bit so long at the baite of her beautie, that at length he was caught in Cupids snare. And on a time as she was at cardes in the presence chamber, this youth Valentine stood staring in her face in a great studie, which *Fuluia* perceiuing, to bring him out of it, prayed him to reach her a botle of wine, which stood vpon a cupbord by: and as he approached therewith to the place of her presence, his senses were so ravished with the sight of her

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

her liuely face, that he let the botle fall smyth of his hands, and retiring back with seemely shamesallnes, went for more, and being come therewith, she thanked him for his paines, saying, I pray God that the fall of the wine hinder not my winning, and bring me ill luck, for I know many that cannot away to haue salt, or drinke, or any such like thing fall towards them.

Madame (said Valentine) I haue often heard it disputed in Scholes, that such as the cause of every thing is, such will be the effect, and seeing the cause of this chance was good, I doubt not but the effect will follow accordingly: and if any euill doth ensue thereof, I trust it will light on my head, though whose negligence it happened. *Fuluia* answered, as I know not the cause, so I feare not the effect, and in deede as you say, hitherto you haue had the worst of it, so that thereby you haue been put to double paines.

If that be all (said he) rather then it shall be said any euill to haue ensued of this chance, I will perswade my selfe that every paine which you shall put me to, shall be double delight, and vnto me treble contentation. You must vse (quoth she then) great eloquence, to perswade you to such an impossibilitie. Oh if it please you (said he) there is an Oratour which of late hath taken vp his dwelling within me, who hath eloquence to perswade to a farre greater matter then this.

If (said she) he perswade you to things no more behoofe, full for your selfe then this, if you will admit of my admonition, you shall not giue him house-rome long. *Madame* (replied he) it is an assured signe of a free and friendlie minde to giue good counsaile, but it is hard for one in bondage, and out of his owne possession to follow it. For what knowe you whether he hath already taken entire possession of the house wherein he is, which if it be so, what wit is able to devise a way to remoue him from thence? If sir (said she) he entred by order of lawe, and paid you truly for it, it is reason he enioy it: maye your folly was great to retaine such

The Historie of

a tenant: but if he intruded himselfe by force, you may lawfully exclude him by strength.

Indeepe (said he) he entred *vi & armis*, forcibly, but after vpon parley, I was content he should remaine in peaceable possession, maye as yet he paid me nothing, but he promisseth so frankly, that if the performance follow, a house with beames of beaten gold, and pillars of precious stones, will not counteruaile the price thereof: yet if I were placed in quiet possession of it, I would thinke my selfe richer, I will not say then the king, but which is moxe, then God himselfe, who ruleth heauen and earth. And as the hope of obtaining the effect of that promise beaueeth me vp to heauen, so the doubt to be deceiued thereof driueth me downe to hell.

And what iollie fellow (said she) is this that promisseth so franklie: will he not promise golden hills, and perforce dirtie dales: Would to God (said he) your seemely selfe were so well acquainted with him as I am, then would I make you iudge of the worthinesse of the thing he hath promised, for that you know the goodnes thereof, none better.

The Lady smelling the drifts of his deuises, and seeing the end of his talke seemed to tend to loue, and that touching her owne selfe, thought not good to draw on their discourse any longer, but concluded with this answer. As I am altogether ignozant what your obscure talke meaneth, so care I not to be acquainted with any such companie as is your Landlord, for so (me thinks by you) I may moxe fittly call him, then tearme him your tenant: and so departed away into her lodging.

Valentine likewise his mistres being gone, gate him to his Chamber to entertaine his amorous conceits, and being alone, brake forth into these words. O friendly fortune, if continually hereafter thou furiously frowne vpon me, yet shall I all the dayes of my life count my selfe bound vnto thee, for the onely pleasure which this day thou hast afforded me, in giving me occasion to talke with her, whose angels voice made such heauenly

Lyfsmachus and Varrona.

heauenly harmonie in my heauie heart, that where befoze it was plunged in perplexities, it is now placed in felicitie: and where befoze it was oppressed with care, it is now refreshed with comfort. Psea euery looke of her is able to cure me, if I were in most deepe distresse of a most dangerous disease: euery sweet word proceeding from her sugred lips, is of force to fetch me from death to life. But alas how true do I try that saying, that euery commoditie hath annexed vnto it a discommoditie: How doth the remembrance of this ioy put me in mind of the grieffe, which the losse of this delight will procure me: yea it maketh all my senses shake, to thinke that some other shall enioy her moxe worthie of her then my selfe: and yet who in this court, nay in all Christendome, nay in the whole world, is worthie of her: No, if she neuer haue any, vntill euery way she haue one worthie of her, she shall neuer haue any. And shall I then, being but a poore Gentleman, seek to insinuate my selfe into a place so high: Shall I by my rude attempt purchase at least the displeasure of her friends and parents, and perchance of hers also, whome to displease would be no lesse offensive vnto me then death: Alas, and must loue needes be rewarded with hate: must courtesie be counteruailed with crueltie: must good will be returned with displeasure: Is it possible that bountie should not abide, where beautie doth abound: and that courtesie should not associate her comelinesse: Yes, I am sure at the least she will suffer me to loue her, though her young pæres, and high estate will not suffer her to affect me: and though she will not accept me for an husband, yet I am perswaded she will not reiect me for a servant: and though she will not receiue my seruice, yet I doubt but she will affable take the tending thereof vnto her. And touching her parents displeasure, what care I to procure the ill will of the whole world, so I may purchase her good liking. Psea, if I should spend the most precious blous in my bodie, in the pursuite of so pererelle a pæce, I would count it as well bestowed, as if it were shed in the quarrell of the Gods, my

The Historie of

Prince, or countie. For he is the Goddesse whom with deuotion I will adore: she is the prince, whom with dutie I will obey: she is the countie in whose cause I will spend my life, living, and all that I haue. Neither is there such cause why her friends should much stoune at the matter: for my lands and reuenues are such, as that they will not suffer me to want any thing pertaining to my estate and degree. Why Alcarne a youth like my selfe, being inamourcd with Ardalefia daughter to the mightie Emperour Otho stole her away, and married her: and do I thinke to attempt the like with one of farre meaner estate, though of farre more worthinesse? And albeit frowning Fortune tossed him for a while in the tempestuous seas of aduersitie, yet at the length he arriued at the haven of happie estate, and was reconciled to the good grace of the Emperour againe. And though at the first my ship be shaken with angrie blasts, yet in time I doubt not but to be safely landed on the shore, and haue my share of that which the showers of shewde fortune shall keepe me from. He is not worthy to suck the swete, who hath not first saoured the sower: And as the beaultie of a faire woman, being placed by a foule, blazeth more brightly, so each toy is made more pleasant, by first tasting some sower sops of sorow. Did not the perill which Leander ventured in the Ocean, and the paine which he toke in swimming, make his arriual to the haven of his heauenly Hero more happie and pleasant? yes no doubt of it: for besides the feeling of the present pleasure, the remembrance of the danger past delighteth. Besides that, by how much more a man hazardeth himselfe for his mistresse sake, by so much the more he manifesteth the constancie of his soule, and meriteth solace at her hands the more worthily. This saying also is no lesse tried then true, that fortune ever fauoureth the valiant: & things the more hard, the more haughtie, high & heauenly: neither is any thing difficult to be by him accomplished which hardly enterprieth it. With that he toke a Lute in his hand and played a note to a dittie which he sung as followeth.

Valentines

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Valentines Song.

I would thou wert not faire, or I were wise,
I would thou hadst no face, or I no eyes:
I would thou wert not wise, or I not fond,
Or thou not free, or I not so in bond.

But thou art faire, and I cannot be wise,
Thy sunlike face, hath blinded both mine eyes:
Thou canst not be but wise, nor I but fond,
Nor thou but free, nor I but still in bond.

Yet am I wise to thinke that thou art faire,
Mine eyes, their purenesse in thy face repaire:
Nor am I fond, that doe thy wisdom see:
Nor yet in bond, because that thou art free.

Then in thy beaultie onely make me wise,
And in thy face, the Graces guide mine eyes:
And in thy wisdom onely see me fond,
And in thy freedome keepe me still in bond.

So shalt thou still be faire, and I be wise:
Thy face shines still vpon my cleared eyes:
Thy wisdom onely see how I am fond:
Thy freedome onely keepe me still in bond.

So would I thou wert faire, and I were wise:
So would I thou hadst thy face, and I mine eyes:
So would I thou wert wise, and I were fond,
And thou wert free, and I were still in bond.

With these, and such like sayings, encouraging himselfe,
he purposed to pursue his purpose, and sayled not daily to at-

The Historie of

tend upon his mistress with all dutie and diligence, & sought all occasions he could to let her understand his loyal loue, and great good will towards her: which she perceiuing, disdained not to acknowledge by her amiable and courteous countenance towards him, wherewith he held himselfe as well satisfied, as if he had bene made Monarch of the whole world. And though he were oft determind in his owne to present his loue vnto her, yet when it came to the point he should haue spoken, feare of offending her altogether disappointed his purpose, and made him mute in the matter which he minded to vtter. But at length perceiuing that delay byed danger, for that she had many other suiters, and feeling by experience, that as fire, the more it is kept downe, the more it flammeth vp: so loue, the more he sought to suppress him, the more fiery forces within him he expressed: he beganne to let feare aside, and to force a supply of courage in his faint heart, and seeing his mistress sit in the presence alone, he entred into reasoning with her in this manner.

Adam, for that I see you without company, I am the bolder to presume to prease in place: whereof though I be altogether vnworthy, yet am I willing to supply it: and if my company may content you, as well as your sight satisfieth me, I doubt not but you will accept it in good part: and so much the lesse I hope my company shall be cumbersome vnto you, for that you are busied about nothing whereto my presence may be preiudiciall. And briefly when I consider the common course of life, which your street selte, and other maydes of your estate leade, me thinkes it is altogether like the spending of your time at this present, which is (with your leave be it spoken) idly, vnfruitfully, without pleasure, without profit. And if my credit were such with you, to craue beleefe for that which I shall speake, I would not doubt but to perswade you to another trade of life, more commendable to the world, more honorable amongst all men, and more acceptable in the sight of God. For beleue me I pittie nothing more then virgins vaine pittie, who thinke they merit reward for liuing chastly,

Lyfsmachus and Varronia.

chastly, when in deed they deserue blame for spending their time so wastly.

Sir (said she) as your company contenteth me well enough, so your talke liketh me but a little: for though I must confesse I sit at this present without doing any thing, yet in my fancie it is better to be idle, then ill employed as your selfe is now, in reprehending that state of life which excelleth al others, as farre as the Sunne both a star, or light darknesse: and where in I meane, for my part, to passe the pilgrimage of this my short life, if either God dispose me not, or my friends force me not to the contrary.

God forbid (said he) you should continue your time in any such trifling trade of life, which indeed is to be counted no life at all, as the Grecian Ladies can truly testifie, who (as Homer reporteth) reckon their age from the time of their marriage, not from the day of their birth: and if they be demaunded how old they be, they begin to number from their marriage, and so answere accordingly: for then onely (say they) we begin to liue, when we haue a house to gouerne, and may commaund our children and our seruants.

Lush (said the Ladie) this is but the sentence and proper opinion of our peculiar people, who perchance by nature of their countrie or otherwise, are more desirous of husbands then other: neither is it any more reason that we should be tied to their example, then they bound to follow our virgin Vestals: or other, who consume the whole course of their life without contaminating their corps with the company of man. Nay rather (said he) without receiving their perfection from men, according to the opinion of Aristotle. But Adam I did not produce that example as necessarie for all to follow, but as profitable to proue and shew, what bale account they made of virginittie, which you so highly esteeme of. But to leaue particular opinions, and come to generall constitutions and customes, I meane both natural, humane, and diuine lawes, and you shall see them all to make against

The Historie of

against you. And first if you consider natures, which in the doings of creatures without reason are plainly set downe, you shall behold no living wight in the world brinnerfall, but that so soone as by age they are apt thereto, applie themselves to that life whereby their kind may be conserved, and number increased. Behold the high flying Falcon, which soareth so high in the aire, that a man would thinke she should neither stoupe to lure or lust: yet she is no sooner an Entermurer, or at the farthest a white Hawke, but that of her owne accord she cometh to the call of the Mercell-gentle her mate. Likewise the Doe, which flingeth so freely about the woods, as though she made no account of the male, yet she is no sooner a foxressiter, but that she seeks the societie of the Bucke. Psea if it would please your samely selfe to enter into the consideration of your owne nature, or if your courtesie would deeme me woorthie to haue the examination of your secret thoughts, I doubt not but you would confesse your selfe to feele a fierie force of that naturall inclination which is in other creatures: which being so, you must graunt to deale unnaturally in resisting that motion which cannot be ill or idle, because nature hath planted it in you. For God and nature do nothing vaineely, or after a vile manner. And in that some do amisse in rebelling against her, their owne scrupulous nicenesse is the cause, when they will impose vpon themselves heavier burdens then they are well able to sustaine, and refuse those which nature hath appointed them to beare, being indeede but light.

What talke you sir (said she) so much of nature, and of creatures without reason, as though we ought to follow either the instinct of the one, or the example of the other. I haue been alwayes taught, that reason is the rule whereby our actions ought to be directed, and that we ought to lay befoze vs the deeds of creatures indued with reason to follow and imitate. For if you stick so strictly to the example of brute beasts, you should vse the company of women but once or twice at the most in a yeere, as most of them do with their females, whereunto I am sure you would be loth to be tyed.

Madame

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Madame (replied he) a Gentlewoman of this title hath already answered this obiection for me. Why then (quoth she) will you condemn their doings in some points, and place them for patterns to be practised by other some?

Psea why not (said he) otherwise you might generally take exception against the example of men, for that some men in some matters do amisse. The good euer is to be vsed, and the euill reiected. Doth not euery man so soone as his daughter is arrived to ripe yeeres, trauaile to bestow her in marriage, whereby she may enioy the fruites of loue, and participate with pleasures incident to that estate: whereby they plainly shewe that the cause why they beget them with pleasure, and bring them vp with paine, is to haue them enter into that trade of life, wherein not onely themselves may liue happily, abounding in all pleasure, but also by the fertill fruite of their bodie make their mortall parents immortal, that when they shall be blasted with age, and withered away, the issue of their seede may begin graciously to growe, and flourish to spring, to the great comfort both of father and daughter. For what pleasure the Grandfather taketh in the sporting pastime of his proper daughters prettie children, I thinke you partly vnderstand: and what delight the mother taketh in the toyes of her little soune, you soone shall perfectly perceiue, if it please you freely to followe the friendly counsaile which I frankly pronounce vnto you. For do you thinke, if virginities were of such vertue, that parents would not rather paine themselves to keepe their daughters modest maydes, then straine themselves and their substance to icorne them in Iunoes sacred bond? Yes perswade your selfe, if your mother were so assured, she would rather lock you vp close in her closet, then suffer any to enioy the saueraigne sight of your beautie, or once aspire to your speech, whereby you might be perswaded to some other kind of life. But the experienced by yeeres knoweth what is best for your behaue, and would you should follow her example, and make no conscience to lose that which she her selfe hath lost, which ex-

The Historie of

cept she had, we had with so rare a iewel as your selfe is, which what a detriment it had been to my selfe, I dare not say, least you should count vertue vanitie, and truth trifling flatterie. But to our purpose, you perceiue (as I said) your parents pleased with the access of Gentlemen vnto you, wherby you may conceiue their minde is you should accept such seruice as they profer, and partake with those pleasures which they prefer vnto you.

Why sir (said she) you altogether mistake the meaning of men in this matter: for when fathers tender marriages to their daughters, it is not for any minde they haue to haue them married; but only for feare least they should fall to willic other waies: for knowing the fickle frailtie of youth, and our propensities to grauitie, and weakenesse, they provide vs marriages to preuent mischiefs: and seeing of evils the least is to be chosen, they count wedlock a lesse euill then the lightnes of our life and behaviour.

Alas good Madame (said Valentine) why do you so much prophane the holie state of Matrimony, as to count it in the number of euils, whereas the Gods themselves haue entred into that calling, whereas Princes pleasantly passe their time therein, whereas by it onely mankind is preserved, and amitteth and loue amongst men continued, of the worthinesse wherof I am not sufficient to open my lips.

Sir (said Fulvia) I speake it not of my selfe, but according to the opinion of the most wise and learned Philosophers that euer liued, amongst whom one Aminius so much mistooke of marriage, that being demanded why he would not marrie, answered, because there were so many inconueniences incident to that estate, that the least of them is able to slea a thousand men.

Why Madame (replied he) you must consider there is nothing in this mortall life so absolutely good and perfect, but that there be inconueniences as well as commodities thereby incurred: by that reason you may take the Summe out of the world, so that it parcheth the Sommer graine, and banisheth

Lyfimaachus and Varrona.

With away the beautie of those that therein blaze their faces. But to leaue naturall and humane lawes, and come to diuine precepts proceeding from Gods owne mouth, both not God say, It is not good for a man to liue alone, and therefore made Eue for an help and comforter? Likewise in diuers places of Scripture he doth not onely commend marriage vnto vs, saying, Marriage, and the bed vndefiled are honourable, but also commaundeth vs to it, saying, You shall forsake father and mother, and follow your wiues.

Why sir (said she) and doth not God say, It is good for a man not to touch a woman? And if thou be vnmarried, remaine so. But why alleadge you not this text, It is better to marry then to burne? wherby is plainly shewed, that marriage is but a meane medicine for the burning in concupiscence and lust. But because we entred into these miseries, I could refer you to an historie, where it is reported that in heauen Virgins chiefly serue God, and set forth his glorie. And Mahomet the great Turke, when he was in heauen, said, he sawe there Virgins, who if they issued from heauen would lighten the whole world with their brightness, and if they chanced to spit into the sea, they would make the whole water as sweete as hony: but here is no mention of married folkes.

Belike (said he) those Virgins are like your selfe, and then no maruaile though God be delighted with the sight of them, which perchance is the cause he hath them in heauen to attend vpon him, as first Hebe and after Ganymedes vnto Iupiter. But generally of women, the histories record, that by bringing forth of children they shall be honoured, and win a place in heauen, which must be by marriage, if honestly. But because I am perswaded that it is only for argument sake that you disallow marriage, and that you pretend otherwise in words, then you intend to do in works, I am content to give you the honour of the field, and thus far to yield my consent to your opinion, that virginie considered of

The Historie of

it alone nature, simply without circumstance is better then matrimony: but because the one is full of perill, the other fraught with pleasure: the one full of iopardie, the other full of security: the one as rare as the blacke swanne, the other as common as the black crowe: of good things, I thinke the more common, the more commendable.

He (said she) I haue gotten any conquest thereby, I thanke mine owne cause, not your courtship, who yeelds when you are able to stand no longer in defence.

My Madame say not so (quoth he) for in that verie yeelding to your opinion, I proued marriage better then virginity, for that it is more common: neither would I haue you turne my silence in this matter in lacke of knowledge, or reprehend me, if I spare to intorce further proofe in a matter already sufficiently proued: no more then you would rebuke the spanniell, which ceaseth to hunt, when he seeth the hawke lagged on the partridge. But you may maruaile madam what is the cause that maketh me perswade you thus earnestly to marriage, which as mine owne unworthynesse willett me to hide, so your incomparable courtship entrageth me to disclose, which maketh me thinke that it is no small cause which can make you greatly offended with him, who beareth you great good will, and that what sate soeuer I shall prefer vnto you, you will either graunt it, or forgiue it: pardon, or pittie it. Wherefore may it please you to vnderstand, that since, not long since, I tooke large view of your vertue, and beautie, my heart hath bene so inflamed with the bright beames thereof, that nothing is able to quench it, but the water which floweth from the fountaine that first infected me: and if pittie may so much preuaile with you, as to accept me, I dare not say for your husband, but for your slave and seruant: assure your selfe, there shall no doubt of danger driue me from my duetie towards you, neither shall any Labie whatsoener haue more cause to reioyce in the choice of her seruant, then shall your selfe, for that I wil account my life no longer pleasant vnto me, then it shall be imployed in your service.

Fulvia

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Fulvia drying her little cheekes with vermillion red, and casting her eyes on the ground, gaue him this answere. As I am to yeeld you thanks for your good wil, so am I not to affoord consent to your request: for y^e neither mind to marrie, nor thinke my selfe worthe to retaine such a seruant. But if I were disposed to receiue you any way, I thinke the best manner meane enough for your worthynesse.

Immediately hereupon there came company vnto them, which made them breake off their talke, and Fulvia being got into her chamber, began to thinke on the sute made vnto her by Valentine: and by this time Cupid had so cunningly carued and ingraued the idoll of his person and behauiour in her heart, that she thought him worthe of a farre more excellent wife then her selfe: and perswading her selfe by his words and lookes, that his loue was loyall without lust: true without trifling, and faithfull without faining, she determined to accept it, if her parents would giue thereto their consent. Now Valentine nothing dismayed with her former deniall, for that it had a courteous close, so soone as opportunitie serued, set on her againe in this sort.

Now Madame you haue considered my case at leisure, I trust it will stand with your good pleasure to make me a more comfortable answere. I beseech you sir (said she) rest satisfied with my former resolution, for other as yet I can make you none.

Alas Madame (quoth he) the extremitie of my passion will not suffer long prolonging of remorie, wherefore I humbly entreat you, presently to passe your sentence either of bale or blisse, of saluation or damnation, of life or death: or if the heauens haue conspired my confusion, and that you meane rigorously to reiect my good wil, I meane not long to remaine alive to trouble you with any tedious sute: for I account it as good reason to honour you with the sacrifice of my death, as I haue thought it conuenient to bestow vpon you the seruice of my life.

¶ 3

Alas

The Historie of

Alas (quoth she) this ietting is nothing ioyfull vnto me, and I pray you vse no more of it, for the remembrance of that which you vtter in sport, maketh me feele the force thereof in good earnest: for a thousand deaths at once cannot be so dreadfull vnto me, as once to thinke I liue to procure the death of any such as you are.

If (said he) you count my words sport, iest, and dalliance, assure your self it is sport without pleasure: iest without comfort, and dalliance without delight, as tract of time shall truly manifest. But if you loue not to heare of my death, why like you not to giue me life? which you may doe onely by consent of your good will. Why sir (quoth she) you know my consent consisteth not in my selfe, but in my parents, to whom I owe both dutie and honour, therefore first it becometh you to demand their consent.

Why (said he) shall I make more account of the meaner parts then of the head, you are the chiefe in this election, and therefore let me receiue one good word of your good will, and then let heauen and earth doe their worst. It is not the rogne, countenance or credit of your parents that I pursue: for to purchase such a treasure as is your good will, I could be content all the dayes of my life to be obnoxious vnto all calamities, so that you be mainteyned according to your desire and worthinesse.

Well (said she) seeing I am the onely marke at which you shote, assay by all meanes to get my friends good liking, and if you leaue any thing straight, me you shall not misse. Valentine vpon this procured the kings letters (for in his fauour he was highly interested) to her father in this behalfe, who hauing perused them, said, he trusted the king would giue him leaue to dispose of his owne according to his pleasure, and that his daughter was too nere vnto him, to let her cast away vpon one, who for lacke of yeres wanted wisdom to gouerne her, and for lacke of lands, lining to mainteine her. And calling his daughter before him, he began to expostulate with her in this sort.

Daughter,

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Daughter, I euer heretofore thought you would haue been a solace and comfort to my old yeres, and the prolonger of my life, but now I see you will increase my hoare yaires, and be the hastner of my death. With the tender care, the carefull charge, and chargeable cost which I haue euer vsed in bringing you vp, deserue this at your hands, that you should passe a graunt of your good will in marriage without my consent: Is the pietie towards your parents, and the dutie of a daughter towards her father, so bitterly forgotten, that you will prefer the loue of an vnthrift, before my displeasure; and to please him care not to offend your parents, who trauaile to bestowe you vpon one worthy your estate and ours: No, neuer thinke Valentine shall inioyn you with my good will, and neuer take me for your father, if you graunt him your assent thereto. Fulvia hearing this cruell conclusion of her father Hermodius, with bashfull countenance and trembling tongue framed her answer in this fourme.

I beseech you good father not to thinke me so gracelesse a child, as once to imagin, much lesse to do any thing which may heape your heavinesse, or hasten your death, the least of which two, would be more bitter vnto me then death. For if it please you to vnderstand, I haue not granted my good will to any, vntlesse yours be thereto gotten. Neither haue I as you see preferred the loue of an vnthrift before your displeasure. But as I cannot let that noble Gentleman Valentine to loue me, so can I not, to confesse the truth, but loue him, marie in heart onely, for my bodie as you gaue it me, so shall you haue the disposing of it. And as I faithfully promise you by the loue which of dutie I owe you, that I will neuer haue any husband without your approbation, so I humbly begge of you, for the affection which by nature you beare me, that you will neuer force me to any without my good liking. For if for the transitorie life you haue giuen me, you make me pay so dearly, as to be linked with one against my will, I must needs count it a hard peniworth, and well may I wish that neuer I had bene boyne.

The Hiitorie of

I beseech you (Sir) consider the inconueniences alwayes incident to those marriages, where there is more respect of money, then of the man: of honours, then of honestie: of goods, then of affection of the parties each to other. What strife, what farres, what debate at bed, and at board, at home, and abroad, about this, about that, neuer quietnes with contentation, neuer merrie countenance without counterfainting, neuer louing words without dissimulation? And whence, but from this rotten roole springeth so many dishonest women, so many cuill living men? Is it not the loathing of neuer liked lips, that maketh women stray from their husbands, to strangers? And is it not either the difference of yeeres, or the diuersitie of manners, or disagreement of natures, that maketh the husband forsake the wife, and follow other women? And where are any of these differences, or inequalities betwene the married, but where the force of friends, not libertie of loue, linketh them together. These things by your wisdom considered, I trust as you restraine me from one whom I loue, so you will not constrain me to any whom I loue not: in so doing doubt not but you shall find in me modestie meete for a mayd, vertue fit for a virgin, dutie becoming a daughter, and obedience becoming a child. Her father hauing mildly heard her modest talke, told her, he meant not to force her to any, but would provide her a husband, whom he doubted not should like her better euery way then Valentine did, and therefore willed her to rattle out of her minde the thing which she had conceived of him: and so gave her leave to depart. And being in her Chamber, she began to devise all the meanes she could to take out of her heart the loue which she bare vnto Valentine, and remembered to her memoire her fathers displeasure, and her owne preferment, with many other discommodities that way arising. But nothing preuailed, so as a bird caught in a snare, the more diligentlie she laboured to get out of the labowynth of fancie, the more doubtfully was she therein intricated: and as one

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

One climbing on high, his fete falling, and he in danger to fall, more firmly fastneth his hold then before he did: so Loue, seeing himselfe ready to be dislodged out of her best take such sure hold, and fortified himselfe so strongly within her, that no vigour was of force sufficient to fetch him from thence. Which the good Gentlewoman perceiuing, thought best for her ease and quiet, to yeeld the summons of loue, to be disposed at his pleasure, wherein no doubt she had reason, for as the swift running streame if it be not stopped runneth smoothly and without noise, but if there be any damme or locke made to stay the course thereof, it rageth, and roareth, and swellth above the banks, so Loue, if we obey his loze, and yeeld vnto his soueraignitie: dealeth with vs gentle, and like a louing Lord raigneth ouer vs, but if we withstand his force, and seek to stay the passage of his power, he rageth ouer vs like a cruell tyrant. Which this Gentlewoman (as I said) perceiuing, without any more resistance determined in her heart to loue Valentine onely and euer.

Now Valentine notwithstanding the angrie looks of the father, the frowning face of the mother, and the strange counterfaint countenance of the daughter, followed his suite so effectually, vnto such apt perswasions to the maide, and in short time insinuated himselfe so farre into her familiaritie, that her parents looked not so fast, but she allured as much, and thought she receiued no other contentation in the whole world but in his companie, which her parents perceiuing, and being loath to see the Kings displeasure, thought as good by their consent to let them goe together, as by secretie to keepe them aunder, whom the Gods seemed to ioyne together: and so much the rather they were induced thereto, for that they sawe their daughter so affected to Valentine, that the hearing of any other husband was hateful, and vnto her horrid. And hereupon the marriage was concluded, and consummated, and to this bargain only the fancie of Valentine forced him.

Now behold the nature and condition of fortune: for she hauing laured these men (namely Valentine, and the two

The Historie of

rogues) along with roles, man a now to whip them with nettles, and having presented them with the brightness of her fauours, now she trost them with many frownes. They that did thinke themselves the most fortunate amongst men, may now account themselves the most distressed of all men. For they hauing carelesly floated in the seas of voluptuousnes, and rechelesly reigned in the lazie seas of lawlesse libertie, where they fed on nought but loosenes and licentiousnes, whereby most prompt to wickednes, were wapt in the performance of most desperate designements. For one of them named Delfridus was by the furies of hell so set on fire in libidinous lust towards his mistres Fulua, that he sought all the meanes possible to win her to his wicked will, not much unlike Machiader aboue mentioned: the other called Insolander, was so instigated on with arrogancie, that he daily anticipated after the destruction of him who was the cause of his eleuation into prosperitie, utterly casting behind them the remembrance of their former state and condition. This Insolander was so blinded with promotion, that vpon hope of a little commoditie purchased by his maisters death, sought as (I said) by all meanes to worke his ruine: which being perceived (for God will not suffer such wilde attempts to be practised) Valentine prosecuted the matter so earnestly against him, that hee was throwne into prison, where for shame of his deede, and dread of deserved punishment, he did himselfe desperately to death.

Now Delfridus seeing his mistres too firmly fortified in vertue to be by consent vanquished by villanie, determined also by death to remoue the obstacle. And as nothing is so impossible which frantike furies will not enterprize, nothing so shamefull which vnbridled desire will not undertake, nothing so false which fleshly filthines will not forge, so to bring his purpose to passe, as Valentine on a time (in ill time) passed through a blinde lane of the citie, he shrouded himselfe in a corner, and as he came by, shot him thorough with a Pistol, which done, he forthwith repaired home, making grievous lamentation

Lysimachus and Varrona

lamentation (but in a counterfeit manner) for the cruell murder of his most louing and affectionate maister as he treated him. Fulua hearing of this vnaturall deede, and by circumstances knowing Delfridus to be the authour thereof, tearing her haire, scratching her face, and beating her bodie against the ground, so soone as the floods of teares had flowen so long that the fountaine was drie, so that her speech might haue passage which before the teares stopped, she began to crie out in this carefull manner.

O God, what iniustice is this, to suffer the earth to remaine polluted with the blood of innocents: Didst thou curse Cain for killing his brother Abell: and wilt thou not crucifie Delfridus for slaying Valentine: Is thy heart now hardened that thou wilt not, or are thy hands now weakened that thou canst not preserve thy seruants from the clauces of Satan: If there be no safetie in innocencie, wherein shall wee repose our selues: If thou be not our protector, who shall defend vs: If the wicked banquish the vertuous, who shall set forth thy honour and glorie: or who will so much as once call vpon thy name: But what meane I wretched wight to exclaime against God as the authour of my euill, whereas it is onely my selfe that am guiltie of my husbands death: It is I that pampred by my beautie, to make it glister in the sight of euerie gazing eye, in the thickest thred whereof this miscreant was intangled, that to vniwinde himselfe thereout, hee hath wrought all this mischief. It is I that would not deter his doings to the view of the world, whereby the perill which hung ouer my husbands head might haue beene prevented. And seeing I haue bene the cause of his death, shall I (being a murderer) remaine alieue: Did I haue bene seeing the dead carcaske of her husband Ceix cast on shore, willingly cast her selfe into the Sea to accompanie his death: and shall I see my sweete beloued true Valentine flaine, and not drinke of the same cup: Did true I like goare her gorgeous bodie with the same sword where-

The Historie of

both princely Pyramus had prickt himselfe to the heart: and are not my hands strong ynough to do the like? Did Iulietta die vpon the corps of her Romeo, and shall my bodie remaine on earth, Valentine being buried? No gentle death come with thy direfull dart, and pierce my painefull soule, and with one death rid me out of a thousand at once. For what thought do I thinke on my Valentine, which doth not procure me double death? What thing do I see belonging to him, which is not a treble torment vnto me? But it is cowardhede to wish for death, and courage valiantly to take it. Yes I can and will bestow my life for my Valentines sweete sake. But O God, shall the varlet remaine alive to triumph in his treacherie, and vaunt in his villanie? Shall I not see his satall day before my small end? It is his blood that will be a most sweete sacrifice to the ghost of my Valentine: and then can I end my life contentedly, when I haue offered vp this acceptable sacrifice. And vntill such time as I haue opportunitie hereto, I will prolong my wofull dayes in direfull griefe, and only the hope of reuenge shall beaulie hold my loathsome life and lowrowfull soule together. For other canie why I should desire life I haue not, for that I am utterly depriued of all ioyes of life. For as the bird that is bryused with some blow lieth aloft in the leaues, and heares his fellows sing, and is not able to utter one warbling note out of his mournfull boice, but rather hates the harmony which other birds do make, so I, my heart being broken, sit solitary alone, and see some hang about their husbands necks, some closely clip them in their armes, some trifle with them, some talke with them, all which redoubt my paine, to thinke my selfe destitute of those pleasures: yea, to a wretched wounded heart that dwels in dolc, every pleasant sight turnes to bitter anguish, and the onely object which shall ever content my eyes, shall be the destruction of that Judas which hath brought me to this desolation.

Now Delidus thinking that time had taken away her feares and sorow, and supposing that neither she, or any other had suspected him for the murder of Valentine, began to

enter

Lysimachus and Varrona.

enter into the lists of lull againe, and with a new encounter of incontinencie to set vpon her. But she so much abhorred him, that if she had but heard his name, it caused her nature to faile in her, and all her senses to faint: so that when he saue no possibility to impell her to unpictie, he meant to sollicite her in the way of marriage, and caused her neere kinsfolks and friends to moue his suite vnto her (for he was a man well countenanced of many) who laboured very earnestlie in the matter, and were so importunate vpon her, that no answer would satisfie them. Now Fulvia seeing she could not be rid of her friends, and foreseeing that by this meanes she might be freed from her enemy, agreed to take him to husband. And the day of solemnizing the marriage being come, they went together to the temple of Diana, where all things according to custome being consummated, the Bride-wite (as the vse was) dranke to her husband in wine as he thought, but indeed in poison which she had provided of purpose: and when she saw he had drunke by his death, she said vnto him, Go now, and in stead of thy marriage bed get thee a graue, for thy marriage is turned to murder, a punishment iust for thy outrageous lust, and mercilesse designement: for vengeance, asketh vengeance, and blood, blood, and they that sowe slaughter, shall be sure to reape ruine and destruction.

Now Delidus hearing these words, and feeling the force of the poison to worke within him, assayed all the remedies he could to heale himselfe, but all in vaine. Fulvia also feeling the poison to preuaile within her, fell vpon her knees before the altar of Diana, uttering these words. O Goddess, thou knowest how, since the death of my sweete husband, this life hath been most loathsome and swete vnto me, and that the onely offering vp of this sacrifice hath kept me from him, which now in thy presence being performed, I thinke my selfe to haue satisfied my duty, and purchased thereby a passport to passe to the habitation and paradise where my husband hath his dwelling.

Immediatly vpon this, so well as she could, she crabled

The Historie of

heine to her house, where she was no sooner, but tidings were brought her that Deltridus was dead, wherewith with great joy she cast her selfe downe upon her bedde, and called her little sonne which she had by Valentine, whom blessing and kissing, said. Alas petic impie, who shall now defend thee from thy foes, who shall redress thy wrongs? Thy father is gone, thy mother is departing, and thou poore soule must abide behind, to endure the burnt and bitter blastes of this wretched world. Ah if the love which I bare my husband had not bene exceeding great, nature would have caused me to have some care of thee, and for thy sake to have suffered my selfe something longer to live: but now as I have shewed my selfe a loving wife, so have I scarce shewed my selfe a naturall mother. But alas it was reason I should prefer him before thee, who was the author of thee, and who blessed me with thee. Well I see now my time is come, my tongue begins to faile, come deare child and take thy last Conge of thy dying mother: God shield thee from shame: God preserve thee from perrill: God send thee more prosperous fortune then have had thy poore parents. And thus farewell my fruite, farewell my flesh, farewell sweet babe. And welcome my *Valentine*, whom I see in the Skies ready to receive me And so in sorrow and joy she gaue up the ghost. Thus was the end of Valentine fatally no doubt sent, thus was the end of the beggers miserably accomplished.

Now I would wish you blazing stars, which stand vpon your chastity, to take light at this lot, to take heed by this harmer you or the husband slain, the leacher poisoned, the wife dead, the friends comfortlesse, the child parentlesse. And can the preservation of one simple womans chastitie counteruaile all these confusions, had not the losse of it bene lesse then of her life? But it is naturally incident to women to enter into extremitie, they are too loving or too loathing: too courteous or too coy: too willing or too wilfull: too mercifull, or too mercilesse: too softward, or too froward: too friendly, or too stouid: the mean they alwaies find verily account of: otherwise she might with (reason, sooner then

cut

Lysimachus and Varrona.

outrage) haue suppressed his rage: she might with some content courtlesse haue cooled his incontinent desires: and better it had bene to haue dyed one ym on with delaies, then to haue dyed uen him into such dispaire: and to haue brought him into some error, then into such feare to haue presepated him. But howe soeuer my words run, I would not you should take them altogether to tend to her dispaire: for as I must condemne her crueltie, so can I not but commend her constancie, and thinke her worthe to be compared to Lucrece, Penelope, or what woman soeuer that euer had any preheminnce of praise for her vertue. And I would wish my gallant youtyes, which delight to gaze on euery beautifull glasse, and to haue an oare stirring in euery lousely boate, not to row past their reach: not to fire their fancies vpon impossibilities: not to suffer themselves to be blasted with the beames of beautie, or scorched with the lightning of louing looes: such affection towards the married is euer without lone: such fire is without feare: such lutes are without shame: such cankers, if they be not at the beginning cured, growe to the confusion of the whole bodie. Wherefore gentle woman, I leaue it to your iudgements, to giue sentence. whether is more worthe of reprehension he or she. He had the law of lone on his side, she the law of men, and of marrigae on her part: lone led him which the Gods themselves cannot resist: chastitie guided her which the Goddes themselves haue lost: he killed him whom he counted his enemy: she slew him whom she knew her friend: she with reason might haue prevented great mischief, his wings were too much limed with lust, to flee sooth of his follie.

FINIS.